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2 December 1985

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

EXPANSION IN GULF ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES PLANNED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 12 Oct 85 p 41

[Article: "The Arab Gulf Countries Are Orienting Themselves toward an Integrated Aluminum Industry"]

[Text] At the end of the sixties, the Arab world entered the aluminum industry on a large scale. In Naj' Hammadi, Egypt established a massive aluminum complex, benefitting from the electricity the High Dam provided. In Bahrain, the government established an aluminum smelting company, Alba, which began producing in 1971 with a capacity of 120,000 tons a year, later rising to 170,000 tons. The government intends to expand the capacity of the smelter in the future to 250,000 tons. Dubayy has built another smelter, with a capacity of 135,000 tons, which began operating in 1980, and there is a plan to raise productive capacity to 180,000 tons.

This industry's main requirement is not the presence of raw materials, that is, bauxite, but rather abundant energy. Had it not been for the High Dam, the Naj' Hammadi smelter would not have been built, and had it not been for the abundance of natural gas, a smelter would not have been built in Bahrain, along with another one in Dubayy. It is preferable for an industry such as this to derive its power from electricity generated by dams, since there is no limit to the electricity from dams while gas or oil will be depleted someday.

Hence the objection by some experts to establishing such an industry in oil states, as it should be established in countries which draw their electric power from dams, such as Egypt, Syria and Iraq.

There have been massive projects to produce aluminum in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the emirates with an overall capacity of 490,000 tons of aluminum, but Bahrain convinced Saudi Arabia not to erect a smelter and to settle for participation in the Alba plant. Kuwait and the emirates have given up their projects because of the obscurity surrounding the aluminum industry throughout the world. It is well known that world demand for aluminum has dropped perceptibly because of the alternatives which have emerged, such as plastic products. In brief, there is an international surplus in the aluminum industry.

Nonetheless, the Gulf Industrial Investment Organization, an organization in which six Gulf countries share in membership, has found it economically feasible to establish a refinery to convert bauxite into alumina, which smelters convert into aluminum, that is, the industry prior to the smelting process. A study which the organization has prepared says that the Dubayy and Bahrain smelters import 610,000 tons of alumina a year and it is expected that the volume of demand in the future will come to 860,000 tons a year. In the event the three other smelters are established in Kuwait, the emirates and Saudi Arabia, demand will come to 980,000 tons a year.

The organization says that the decisive factor in the refinery's economic activity is that the Arab Gulf area has some of the relative advantages required for such an industry, most important of which are "the low cost of energy, the possibility of savings in transportation costs, since the alumina is imported from remote countries (such as Australia, for instance), the availability of capital, the expansion of the base of production, the diversification of income sources in the region and the coexistence with the aluminum industry of preparatory industries, aluminum smelters and other preparatory industries which are subordinate to them, which in the future will lead to an integrated aluminum industry starting with the raw material and ending with the finished aluminum products."

The feasibility studies the organization has prepared rely mainly on the continued importation of bauxite. However, an important development occurred recently when quantities of bauxite ore were discovered in the Saudi region of al-Zubayrah. Study has been suspended at this point while Saudi Arabia finishes studying the quality of the bauxite discovered, its quantities and the possibilities of exploiting it commercially.

The fact is that the discovery of the Saudi bauxite has strengthened the economic feasibility of the project to establish a refinery to produce alumina from bauxite. However, the establishment of the project will be delayed for a long time until Saudi Arabia completes its studies on the new discovery. Therefore, the organization has considered it appropriate to continue the detailed studies in the light of the data available on the Saudi bauxite.

The organization says that the Saudi ore is of the aluminohydrate type which responds to alumina production using the Bayer high temperature treatment method. It is difficult in general to market this type as a raw material, since aluminum producers prefer to import bauxite of the trihedrite type because of the relative ease in treating it. However, there is nothing to prevent any country from using aluminohydrate bauxite domestically to produce alumina, if the investment and operating costs are economically feasible, as the organization says.

It appears that the Gulf countries will accept a project such as one which will benefit from certain sources of alumina, most importantly Australia, Brazil and India. Indeed, the presence of a nearby refinery might lower the costs of production of the Dubayy and Alba (Bahrain) smelters. Agreement will come in the context of the new industrial strategy they have set out, the gist of which is the need to establish industries for which raw

materials are available locally, since their value added will become much greater. Perhaps that is a new industrial development, especially if we consider that aluminum is a strategic materials industry; aluminum enters into almost all areas, from housing and kitchen utensils to the manufacture of automobiles and airplanes.

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AFFECT GULF INDUSTRIES

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 26 Oct 85 pp 43, 44

[Article: "Industrialists in the Gulf Invited to a Conference To Discuss Challenges"]

[Text] Gulf business circles were not surprised by the Gulf Industrial Investment Organization invitation to a conference for Gulf industrialists to be held next December. Gulf industry has reached the peak of its historic crisis, which has been the result of many elements one can define as follows:

1. The cost of erecting a factory in any Gulf country is by its nature extremely high. According to one study the Kuwaiti Industrial Bank put out, the cost of a factory in the Gulf is 40 percent greater than that of one erected in Egypt or Jordan and about 60 percent than one erected in Europe. These figures might suggest that the countries exporting the means of production, most of which are European, treat the Gulf region in a discriminatory manner, but it is not just a matter of this. Indeed, they involve several elements, among the most important of which are that manufacturing expertise in the Gulf is minor and the options generally are restricted to high-cost advanced forms of industrial technology which require greater capital and the Gulf countries' failure to produce the means of production, in a framework of a total absence of good industrial and marketing management. In addition, the science of industrial accounting has not yet entered these countries.
2. The cost of operating the components of industrial machinery is also high in comparison with Asian industrial countries. The Gulf countries are deficient in labor because of low population. Therefore, they are compelled to seek the aid of labor from abroad. If immigrant labor is not expensive in the industrial framework, it is at least expensive in the framework of the nation as a whole, because it transfers a large part of its savings to its own countries, while the national goal of any industry is to export.
3. These countries' recent arrival at manufacturing presupposes the absence of an industrial mentality able to improve the goods produced in terms other than form.

4. Here is the important reason, which is the absence of a large market which can absorb high capital costs as well as operating costs. One should bear in mind that the Gulf countries' influence in the Arab world might enable them in the future to open up Arab markets to their products. However, that will not come about if all the Arab countries, including some Gulf countries, do not abandon the system of protection. Gulf industrialists had hoped that the Cooperation Council countries' economic agreement would enable them to export their surplus to the council countries, but it appears that this situation will require the further mutual opening of markets, even if this results in damage to industrial organizations operating on a basis that is not economically feasible.

5. The strength of the commercial currents in the Gulf countries, which reject not only industrialization but also any form of commercial protection, and are justified in many circumstances, especially with regard to the protection required by some industries which are in reality warehouses preparing commodities that have been produced abroad. However, many industries, indeed most of them, are working on a basis of economic feasibility, and their production is considered equivalent to imported production, if not superior on many occasions.

6. The international recession has prompted industrial countries, especially Asian ones, to dispose of their production on the world markets at any price. One can say that the Gulf countries face commercial excesses just like those facing the United States, which recently determined to tend toward commercial protection from the competition of others. One should bear in mind that most foreign production offered on Gulf markets is financially subsidized by the governments of the countries which export it through financial grants given to exporters.

The last problem is the severe one facing Gulf industrialists and it requires urgent solutions before it is too late. The other problems can be dealt with under a cold light until solutions ripen.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have recently acted to deal with the problem of "flooding." The Saudi Ministry of Trade says that it will prohibit any commodity from being transacted at a "flooding" price, that is, a price below the internationally recognized cost of production or the cost of producing a similar commodity in Saudi Arabia itself, in accordance with the commodity and its commercial importance. Here it is assumed that the campaign starts when the ministry receives notification from industrialists that a commodity exists on the market which is being sold at a level below cost.

However, Kuwait has taken more important measures. It imposes customs protection on Kuwaiti industrial goods ranging from 5 to 30 percent in accordance with the value added they produce and their capital costs. This means a more fundamental review of industry. There is no doubt that the industries which enjoy a high added value are ones which rely on raw materials and commodities available or produced locally, foremost among them crude oil, oil products and petrochemicals. However, in any event these industries are few, though they are large.

There are many studies prepared by the Gulf Industrial Investments Organization in which six Gulf countries share in membership. These deal with a statement of Gulf industrial problems and the solutions that must be adopted, which in particular are focussed on the need for coordination among industries that exist now, especially in the area of cement, petrochemicals and the future establishment of large industries with joint capital and effort in the context of the public or private sectors.

Mr 'Abdallah al-Mu'jil, the secretary general of the organization, says that the basic problem is industrial programs, which have put excessive emphasis on their national nature, which will lead only to more complications. "The time has come to work on a broader stage, the Gulf stage. This requires the greatest possible amount of coordination, not to mention a suitable coordinated joint industrial plan."

The organization has plans to establish large, giant industries on a Gulf-wide scale in the areas of petrochemicals, aluminum or iron and steel and support and advance industries complementing these. It is apparent on the basis of the studies it has put forth in this regard that the organization is urging the establishment of integrated industries, as far as their response to the needs of the area as a whole or their comprehensiveness go, so that raw materials will be transformed into finished goods in accordance with a manufacturing sequence without needing semi-processed goods from abroad. This sort of industry has great economic feasibility.

However, there are major positive economic features which on many occasions override the negative ones. These include the presence of cheap power, government financial support, buying power in the domestic markets and, most important, the presence of a fear of the post-oil period both among governments and among individuals who are gradually orienting themselves toward productive areas. Observers note that Gulf investors, especially in Saudi Arabia, generally function on three planes, commercial and service investment, productive investment (industry and agriculture) and foreign investment, in the desire to diversify and out of fear of the unknown.

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

FOREIGN DEBT COSTS, BALANCES REVIEWED

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 7 Aug 85 p 2

[Article: "At the End of 1984 the Emirates' International Reserves Came to \$18 Billion and Those of the Cooperation Countries to \$214 Billion"]

[Text] The emirates occupy third place among Arab countries in terms of international reserves, including gold reserves. At the end of last year these came to about \$18 billion in the case of countries which constitute the low risk group with respect to foreign reserves, including all Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Algeria. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's reserves came to \$110 billion, those of Kuwait to \$70 billion, those of Qatar to \$15 billion and those of Algeria to \$3.1 billion.

A new banking study has placed Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Libya, North Yemen and Iraq in the moderate-risk group, and Morocco, Lebanon, Somalia, Mauritania and the Sudan in the high-risk group as regards foreign debts.

The Arab Bank Ltd study issued yesterday said that the six Gulf countries and Algeria are characterized as low- to moderate-risk countries from the political standpoints. Aside from that, they have great potential for entering international money markets, their economic liquidity indices and ability to pay are stable and strong and the possibilities of economic growth they possess are good.

Among the Gulf Cooperation Countries, Oman and Bahrain are the only two countries which still have long-term foreign debts owing. Nonetheless, these debts account for only low percentages of domestic product, imports and exports and debt cost alike.

The other four Gulf states are capital-exporting countries and have no long-term debts owing. If such debts exist, they are very minor. These countries' total short-term debts came to about \$20 billion as of June 1984. Nonetheless, the great international reserves in their possession provide adequate cover for their imports and short-term debts owing. These reserves will also be useful as collateral in the event any sudden drops occur in oil revenues.

In the event foreign assets are calculated as part of reserves, Saudi Arabia has the equivalent of 33 months' worth of imports, Qatar 26 months, the emirates 23 months and Kuwait more than 100 months.

In its introduction, the study stated that the long-term foreign debts owed by 20 Arab countries were about \$96 million at the end of 1983 but that the total of these debts had increased to about \$103.8 billion in 1984. A significant number of Arab countries have foreign debts that accounted for a high percentage of domestic product (40 percent or more in 1981). The foreign debts of only four Arab countries of a total of 20 constitute a high percentage of domestic product.

Foreign Debts of the Countries of the Arab Nation (in Millions of Dollars)

Country	Foreign Debt (Due and Being Paid)		Debt Service	Balance of Current Accounts	International Reserves (Including Gold)
	1983	1984 (estimated)	1983	1984	1984
Low-Risk Group					
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	-18,433	110,000
Kuwait	--	--	--	4,584	70,000
Emirates	--	--	--	4,500	18,000
Bahrain	407	480	190	161	1,368
Qatar	--	--	--	409	15,000
Oman	677	970	139	85	617
Algeria	14,700	13,300	3,825	-86	3,188
Moderate-Risk Group					
Tunisia	3,703	4,080	560	-614	370
Jordan	2,054	2,400	213	-391	883
Egypt	19,330	21,100	1,529	-385	1,447
Syria	2,616	3,300	401	-815	389
Libya	--	--	--	-1,681	4,905
North Yemen	1,800	2,400	97	-560	284
Iraq	25,500	32,000	700	-4,400	1,200
High-Risk Group					
South Yemen	900	1,050	50	-309	250
Morocco	11,000	12,500	2,092	-892	261
Lebanon	350	450	59	-1,100	3,495
Somalia	1,504	1,600	22	-149	6
Mauritania	1,150	1,300	123	-196	84
Sudan	7,000	8,000	695	-220	17

LIBYA

TUNISIAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF WORKERS' DEPARTURE REVIEWED

Tripoli AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 30 Sep 85 p 7

[Article by 'Abd-al-Salam Salamah: "The Freedom To Choose the Means"]

[Text] When the media turn away from their lofty mission and become just a means for propagandizing public opinion, that is something serious before which one must pause in order to correct what the people carrying out this mission have ruined.

If the media, especially in this era, derive their strength from the words they utter, that means that they must be more committed and concerned about the process of choosing truthful effective talk in the future over any medium, and not intend to distort this talk or turn what is false in it into the truth.

What is the fate of public opinion which draws its information and builds its arguments on what it receives from media that lie? This assuredly results in the creation of a public opinion which conflicts with and contradicts itself overnight and utters wrong things, a vile crime and high treason committed against the people who follow it.

The media are an instrument for guiding and enlightening public opinion and an effective instrument for raising the cultural level of the individual, and not the opposite -- that is, when the media become an instrument for degrading the individual's cultural and moral level and bringing him into additional fruitless labyrinths. Fighting arguments with arguments and answering lies with proof and categorical evidence are the duties of media which try to uplift the level of the society in which they exist.

What has led us to talk about this subject is the unjustified, illogical unfounded campaign which the media of the Tunisian government have been launching against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya since the decree dispensing with the Arab and foreign labor present on the territory of the Jamahiriya was issued.

It would have been more appropriate for the Tunisian media to deal with the issue with the logic of the mind, not be partial toward emotionalism and

understand, before their own government, the will of a people who have decided to act by themselves. Their treatment must be derived from a conviction dictated by conscience and the honor of the mission, far removed from triviality and partiality and aware that it is offering a human mission for the sake of man everywhere, supplied with the truth and guided by the proper way.

When the Tunisian media relied on irresponsible street talk, it derogated the level of the individual, showed contempt for their listeners, readers and viewers. The statements of fools, interviews with them and the recitation of their "rare acts of heroism" which they have seized upon are proof of the lack of irrefutable arguments.

What is odd about the situation is how the people in the Tunisian media, who have long-standing experience, permitted their agencies to spread such "insipidities," even if they happened, over the air, to reach the ears of millions of people, without realizing that this method would result in getting the people following them to lose their trust in these media agencies, and that it is very difficult, indeed perhaps out of the question, to regain people's trust after they have lost it for some reason.

The violent campaign the Tunisian media are launching against the Jamahiriyyah is not founded on logic. While the feeble argument that has been used up to now is that the workers going back have not obtained their rights in full, this illogical argument must not be dealt with by a media war reaching its climax overnight. There are laws and traditional forms of usage governing the international community that any country must commit itself to. It would have been more appropriate for the Tunisian media to demand an investigation into the truth of what was cited, but launching a war without preliminaries, without attention to international laws and usage, has not and will not restore rights that have been forcibly removed, as the media of the fraternal country of Tunisia allege.

If the argument is the process of terminating the contracts in itself, that is something else and has revealed that the Tunisian government and its media want to launch a media war against the Jamahiriyyah, because the Jamahiriyyah is not the only country that has dispensed with thousands of workers present on its territory; there are other countries which have carried out the same operation and are also fraternal countries of Tunisia's, just as the Jamahiriyyah is its brother, not to speak of other countries such as France, Belgium and so forth.

That the media of the masses have kept silent so far does not mean that they are incapable of answering. They have the dossiers and facts which will refute any gossip from the other party. However, the genesis of the silence is that to respond up to this point would be considered a waste of precious time which the various media must use in service of the Arab cause in general, and the failure to respond arises from our conviction that the brothers in Tunisia realize their role full well. Our role ends when the people who follow us realize their role and are aware of and understand what they are told. Arguments and antagonism are a stage which we ought to have transcended.

The use of the media to cast notoriety, state falsehoods and distort people's reputations among listeners, viewers and readers is a war in the true sense of the word -- a war which has its plans, its timing and its goals, just as the use of an airplane means war. Therefore, as long as the war is declared, every party must choose the means of the war which are appropriate for him and which he considers to be feasible. One party might consider airplanes to be a means for replying to their adversaries, and others might adopt the media for replying to their adversaries. The media might win and the airplane might lose. It has happened that the media have overthrown governments and caused the destruction of the psychologies of numerous societies. The opposite can happen -- that is, the media could be defeated and the airplane could win-- but the important thing is that each party has of its own will chosen the means which are appropriate for it in its declared war, whether these means are in the media, in the form of the press, radio and so forth, or airplanes, tanks or even tractors. The important thing is the means which achieves their objective. Therefore everyone is free to choose the means that are appropriate for them.

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LIBYA

JUSTICE COMMITTEE SOURCE'S EXPLANATION OF BOMBING ATTEMPT

Valetta THE JAMAHIRIYAH MAIL in English 18 Sep 85 p 7

[Article: "Tunisia Incident: 'What Really Took Place'"]

[Text]

□ Zin El Abidin Ben Ali, secretary of state for national security in Tunisia, said that Tunisian security forces arrested Libyan elements when they were planning to carry out acts of sabotage against economic and tourist institutions.

An official source at the general people's committee for justice refuted these allegations and said "They are totally untrue and mere lies and fabrications. Had it not been for the aim of the Tunisian regime to defame Jamahiriya and make it an imaginary enemy in the existing conflict between the Tunisian government and the general union of workers, these allegations would not have deserved any reply."

The source said Zin Al Abidin told a story his security forces were unable to coordinate its chapters. He borrowed from an old Egyptian scenario by the Egyptian security organs, thanks to which these hollow stories are being made up. The source made clear the following facts:

FIRST: Zin Al Abidin claimed that the suitcase was delivered by Ali al Asfar on 23rd August whilst the Tunisian authorities expelled

this employee on 22nd August 1985 after being put under house arrest for 36 hours.

SECOND: Undoubtedly, the security organs of the Egyptian regime should know that it is impossible for anyone to learn explosive methods in matter of minutes contrary to the imagination of Zin Al Abidin. Hosni Al Wahshi whose name was mentioned did not visit Tunisia at all nor did he meet with any citizen. He was elevated by the masses as secretary of the general people's committee of Azzawia municipality and he has no other status than this.

Once again we ask how many right-handmen has Muammar Qathafi got as Hosni Al Wahshi is claimed to be the right handman of the leader of the revolution.

THIRD: The Tunisian political and security authorities should have coordinated amongst themselves before fabricating these lies so as they would not be uncovered. Perhaps the Tunisian foreign ministry realises now that Ali Al Asfar was granted a visa in Tunisia to visit Morocco and he was in Dar Al Beidha on 15/8/1985.

The official source at the secretariat of the general people's committee for justice concluded its clarification by saying "as the Tunisian government claims that the explosives aimed at fuel stations, is it not possible to do that with a match strike."

We can say once again that the false story told by Zin Al Abidin was ridiculed by many journalists who were at the press conference including those of the Tunisian regime. The Tunisian security official stood bewildered when he was asked a question by Mohamed Mahfuz, from the Tunisian "La Press" newspaper, on methods used to uncover the Libyan elements.

He confined himself to saying that the "security organs were on alert during that period". We would not be surprised if that journalist has not already paid the price for asking that question. What is taking place at present in Tunisia and expressed by the Tunisian mass media is no more than an attempt to mislead the Tunisian citizen who ignited the bread revolution and portray Jamahiriya as his principal enemy and that he is being subjected to aggression so as he would give in to poverty and unemployment enabling the Tunisian government to

succeed in its mounting conflict with the Tunisian general union of workers.

Some Tunisian officials resorted recently, within the framework of the crisis they fabricated, to the same methods of propaganda which Jamahiriya got used to.

These methods are reminiscent of the disease which befell defunct Sadat and the propaganda he used to wage on Jamahiriya and its people.

Also, these methods manifested the same cheap aspects which accompanied the downfall of Nimeiry in Sudan who used to fabricate fictitious stories the Libyan Arab people so much so the Arab masses are no longer interested in hearing them.

Needless to remind the world of the collaboration and collusion of the leaders of the Tunisian security organs in providing facilities and training for elements hostile to the Libyan Arab people.

This is a further demonstration of their hatred to the progress and prosperity being realised by the Libyan Arab people not for its benefit alone but for all Tunisians who will not be fooled by the lies of the government. ●

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CSO: 4500/18

LIBYA

GOVERNMENT ORGAN URGES EGYPTIANS TO OVERTHROW REGIME

Tripoli AL-JAMAHIRIYAH in Arabic 18 Oct 85 pp 12, 13

[Article: "Rebel, Egypt!"]

[Text] The rapid countdown has begun, permitting the termination of the Egyptian regime, which has committed major blunders and high treason. The Egypt which confronted the crusader foreigners and from which large military units set forth for the sake of God and Arabhood to strike down the Crusaders' castles and bring them down over their heads, the Egypt whose triumphant armies set forth to wage decisive war against the invasions of the Tatars and Mongols and create the historic victory of the Arab nation and Islam at the battle of 'Ayn Jalut, the Egypt which fought against the French invasion, fashioned the massacre of the first and second revolutions of Cairo in the streets of Cairo and triumphed against Napoleon Bonaparte, the Egypt of Dumat, al-Mansurah and Rashid where the heroic resistance occurred against the English and French, the Egypt of holy war under the command of Ahmad 'Urabi against the khedive and British colonialism, the Egypt of Arab nationalism under the command of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, who cried out from the pulpit of al-Azhar "We will fight, we will fight, and capitulation will not be imposed upon us" -- Egypt is now standing proud and defiant, and has sworn to obliterate disgrace. Egypt has determined to confront the regime of Husni Mubarak, the agent of America and Zionism, in order to bring it down, just as it brought down Faruq and the traitor al-Sadat, and to confront America and defeat it just as it confronted and defeated Britain in Suez and confronted and defeated the Tatars, the Mongols, the Crusaders and Napoleon's invasion.

Egypt, the people, in the words of its students at Cairo University during the demonstrations of rage, has issued a warning to Husni Mubarak. When Egypt warns tyrants, the tyrants have no escape from its angry grip. Egypt, the people, have said, "Tell Mubarak the dock awaits you." This is an absolute, explicit warning that Egypt will destroy Husni Mubarak by gunfire and it is also a categorical, obvious warning to America that it will be hit until it is defeated and there will be holy war against it which will crush its arrogance and destroy its 10th crusade campaign.

Egypt is not Husni Mubarak, the submissive and lowly, and is not the lost traitor al-Sadat, the person who was killed, just as it was not Khedive

Tawfiq, the confederate of the English or Shawir the ally of the crusaders; rather, Egypt is these thousands of Cairo University students who burned the flag of America and Zionism and gave Husni Mubarak a warning of execution. Egypt is Ahmad 'Urabi, Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, Khalid al-Islambuli and the hero of Sinai, the guerrilla soldier who executed seven Zionist Jews. Egypt is holy war and martyrdom in defense of the Arabhood of Palestine; it is perseverance and struggle against the Zionist invaders; it is the heroic resistance against what is called normalization with the Zionists. Egypt is not lowly; rather, what is base and lowly is Husni Mubarak. Egypt does not abjectly surrender; rather, what has surrendered abjectly and has been submissive is Husni Mubarak's regime. Egypt cannot be remote from the holy war against the crusaders and the Zionists, no matter how dwarves and lowly persons may struggle doggedly to remove it from the holy war. Egypt has not said that the October war was the end of the wars against the Zionists. Rather, the one who said that was the traitor, al-Sadat who was killed, and also Husni Mubarak, the submissive lowly one. These two traitors are a passing, marginal, trivial moment in Egypt's pure, eternal, glorious history.

The traitor al-Sadat and the traitor Husni Mubarak after him alleged that their policy was a reflection of the will of the people, and the two traitors put up a circle of blackouts to conceal and veil Egypt's will. However, Egypt destroyed the circle in order to declare to the world that its will was one thing, the ruling regime's functioning as an agent was something else and the will of Egypt was to fight for the sake of its Arabhood and Islam and for the sake of domestic and Arab national dignity.

The American act of piracy against the Egyptian civilian aircraft over the Mediterranean was not just an aggression against an airplane; rather, it was an aggression against the dignity of Egypt and the people of Egypt. This aggression left a bleeding wound in the dignity of Egypt and its people, exactly as the British-French warning in 1956 was an aggression against the dignity of Egypt and its people, just as the incident of 4 February 1942 was when British tanks surrounded the regime's palace and a cabinet was imposed to rule Egypt by the will of the English. That incident was an aggression against the dignity of Egypt. Egypt is not silent about these acts of contempt. How could Egypt be silent about the act of contempt embodied in the Zionists' demand that the ruling regime submit a report in 48 hours on the guerrilla action the hero Sulayman 'Abd-al-Hamid carried out, in which seven Zionists were killed? How could Egypt be silent about the act of contempt embodied in America's act of piracy against an Egyptian civilian airplane?

How could Egypt be silent about the extreme act of contempt and defiance embodied in these Zionists whom the Egyptian regime allowed to engage in tourist activity in Egypt? Every Egyptian Arab citizen has a personal vendetta, not to speak of a national vendetta, against the Zionist Jews. This Zionist Jew who wanders around the streets of Cairo by permission of Husni Mubarak's regime may himself be one who killed a husband, brother, father, friend or neighbor and came to slake his thirst for revenge and gloat -- indeed, came to trample the graves of the martyrs underfoot with his feet, just as the French crusader general did in Damascus when he trod the grave of Saladdin underfoot and said, "We have returned, Saladdin."

It is natural that Husni Mubarak's lowly, servile regime should be silent about the contemptibility but Egypt will not be silent about the contemptibility and Egypt's reply to the American act of piracy and American and Zionist uncouthness and impudence will not be restricted to the demonstration of anger and the burning of the Zionist and American flag. Demonstrating and burning the Zionist and American flag are just a spark after which Egypt will burn, from the farthest heroic Upper Egypt to Alexandria and Port Said.

How many are there in God's land, in his territory of Egypt, who have sacrificed themselves like Khalid al-Islambuli [and] Sulayman 'Abd-al-Hamid! How many under the surface of the Nile, which has been flowing with its venerability for an eternity, in the lanes of al-Fustat, al-Qata'i' and the streets of Misr al-Qadimah and within and around al-Azhar, Cairo University and the other universities of Egypt! How many men there are, motivated by vendetta and revenge! Egypt will not forgive having its honor held in contempt and the blatant American aggression and act of impudence against the Egyptian civilian airplane are acts of contempt against Egypt's dignity and a wound to the people of Egypt. The Zionist embassy in the Egyptian capital is contempt for the dignity of Egypt and the blood of its martyrs, and treason against the cause of Palestine is contempt for the dignity of Egypt and the blood of its martyrs as well. Recognition of the Zionists at the expense of the land of Palestine and the people of Palestine are an act of contempt against the dignity of Egypt and the blood of its innocent martyrs who have watered Palestine with their blood up to Artut.

Is what America did to the Egyptian passenger plane an act of piracy, Husni Mubarak? If that is piracy, the answer to piracy is not for you to be concerned to strengthen relations with America and continue to adhere to the David Stable agreements which have heaped contempt on Egypt and which it has encouraged these Jews to do.

Are the aggression against the Egyptian airplane America has committed, and the raids on the Arabs the Zionists have carried out, terrorism and piracy? If, Husni Mubarak, you consider that to be piracy and terrorism, the answer to piracy and terrorism is not for you to turn abjectly to America and the Zionists and send guards to protect the Zionist embassy and the American embassy in the Egyptian capital. If, Husni Mubarak, you are still viewing the crimes and terrorism of the Zionists and the Americans with a satisfied eye, you are one of them in the eyes of the people of Egypt, a Jew like the Jews and a stooge of the Americans, and the people who burnt the American flag and the Zionist flag will burn your palace, your regime and your retinue soon. We incite you so that Egypt may once again be as it always was, a heart of Arabhood, a citadel for its holy war and a point of takeoff for its liberated invasions and so that it may once again bow down and pray only to God as a war in which there is no quarter against the enemies of Arabhood and Islam, as it did since 'Umar Ibn al-'As entered it.

LIBYA

TRIPOLI AIRPORT MISMANAGEMENT REVIEWED

Tripoli AL-JAMAHIRIYAH in Arabic 18 Oct 85 pp 14, 15

[Article: "The Airport Has Flown Away"]

[Text] Tripoli International Airport is one of the great achievements the great revolution of the first has realized. Let it be a face of the republic, receiving visitors coming from various countries of the world where the corrupt regimes exist, with their morality which is contrary to our Islamic law and our customs and traditions. How does a visitor which the Jamahiriyah has invited, with its great pioneering thinking, find the country of human civilization, well-being and growth, the green country, the country of affection? How does he find it?

Most unfortunately he comes up against the laxity of administration he sees in Tripoli International Airport and their excellencies the officials letting matters slide as they are on long-term vacations and do not know and are not aware of what is going on in this giant citadel the revolution has achieved as they engage in their areas of specialization. Although these areas of specialization have been snatched away from them through the proliferation of channels, they pursue them through the telephone with their secretaries when they write down some observations, "So and so contacted you and wants you to receive him tomorrow, and so and so got in touch with you and wants you to be waiting for him because he is on an urgent trip." Thus is the state of the Tripoli International Airport administration.

Regarding the administration of the airlines and the traffic section, to talk about that would be a lengthy matter. The members of the airline management are busy with their friends and their relatives; no one is involved in the business of the citizens and other passengers. God knows what would become of the state of the passengers' baggage if we had not talked about the delay in their arrival, which goes on for more than several hours. When the travelers arrive they come up against the damage, ruin and indeed loss that their suitcases are subjected to.

As far as dispatching and confirmed passports go, they have no meaning or usefulness for passengers who are not connected to a given official, since they come to the airport and find that a friend or relative of the official

has taken their place and the poor persons start cursing their wretched luck, which has caused the passengers who do not have status with the airlines to come many long hours before their flight time in hopes that they will find priority in the line -- to no avail, however; it is mediation which plays the role of priority. It is as if Libyan Arab Airlines has prepared itself to serve relatives, friends and in-laws, and as if the affairs of the rest of the others do not concern them and it is not a people's company, one for all the people, but rather a company for Zayd and 'Ubayd. From this it is clear that this company is administered by an ignorant mentality which has mobilized itself as a service instrument for people possessing status and high ranks. It is as if the airline company has not yet entered the era of the masses, which rejects mediation and favoritism, and this company's affairs have become suspect. If we hold it to account, we may find that it has financial deficits which confirm that it will inevitably fall, because it transports persons without tickets by agreement between friends in Tripoli International Airport and the customs passports department. The administration of this company's routes has not risen up yet; therefore an invasion of it is necessary; that is inevitable.

The discussion draws us to Tripoli International Airport and the tremendous amount of humanity which has been truly put out of operation. There are great numbers of people who seem to be out of operation and are not offering any services, because they are from "such and such an area" and friends of so and so and thus and such. Even the number of people employed in the facilities of the airport -- in spite of their large number, the facilities in the airport, most unfortunately, do not suggest that anyone is working. Cleanliness does not exist and filth is piled up. What more can we say? You undoubtedly are informed of the bad state of Tripoli International Airport and that, we do not doubt, cuts into your spirits, as ours. In addition, its administration is lacking in that amount of people who are unemployed. God bless you if the offices continue to receive people seeking information and asking questions. However, these offices do not answer. That can be attributed to mismanagement; are these unemployed groups being turned into sites of production? We are in great need of them so that we can confirm the true nature of our slogans, whose meaning is that a people which eats beyond the limits has no freedom.

If Tripoli airport remains in this state, it will be necessary to change its present administration, which has established its grievous failure by proof and has reaffirmed more than once that it is the main source of the process of laxity, neglect, bribery, mediation, favoritism and smuggling of various types and forms, now that it has confirmed that it is incapable and unable to administer it in a proper manner. Therefore, the airport must be run by the mentality of the revolutionary masses which refuse to have the airport, which is the Jamahiriyah's gateway to the world, be in this present embarrassing form. Therefore, this is one of our tasks, as a revolutionary force which has boldness and is constantly giving notice of the sources of laxity and neglect, which we have adopted in the course of our revolutionary encounters. Therefore, a people's committee must be established in the airport to manage it with a collective mentality, or it will form a people's company. That is correct, and the form which is in keeping with the power of the people. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, and this was the main

reason for the failure to control the airport and manage it in a proper, sound manner, there is the proliferation of channels. The customs department thinks that it is responsible and it has organization and control in the management of its services, starting with the disposition of travel passports and entry and exit stamps on passports. This ruling has eliminated the passport officials' jurisdiction. What gave them this power was the improper personal relations between it and the passport department in the airport. So and so is a friend of the man in customs, there is no need to be sure of him and oversee him, and so forth.

The airport passports department, this is an incident and there is no embarrassment about it, deals for its part with customs officials in the same manner. While the plane is landing on the airport grounds, and passengers are going into the inspection area, mediation plays its part. The situation is more serious. Such and such a person is a friend of the passports man, so and so is a friend of the airlines person, so and so is a friend of the passport administration man, and so and so has a recommendation from so and so. In this case, the presence of a customs man becomes just a formality, since his areas of specialization have been taken away from him.

Here is the beginning of the series of dangers which has started to threaten our clean society with the entry of harmful forbidden things which break up society, since these things are alien to Libyan Arab society. These lie within the context of the war directed against this great people, to ruin its young people and drown them in its embrace as vile attempts on the enemy's part to make these young people forget their real civilized role in this Arab people's struggle for the liberation and reconstruction of its glorious, lofty civilization.

No one in Tripoli International Airport can deny this fact. To confirm it you have only to visit the airport, at which point you will observe things that do not gladden you, if you are concerned about Libyan Arab society, which has received its power, wealth and weapons. You will find that we have not said everything. If there is a threat to Libyan Arab society and its people's power, that will be from Tripoli International Airport, which is considered the first gateway for receiving what comes to us from abroad.

11887

CS0: 4504/55

LIBYA

PROBLEMS OF BUREAUCRACY IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Tripoli AL-JAMAHIRIYAH in Arabic 18 Oct 85 p 11

[Article: "Whether They Know It or Not"]

[Text] "The goal of the socialist society is the happiness of the people, which can exist only in the context of moral and material freedom. The attainment of freedom is contingent on the extent to which people personally own their requirements in a manner which is guaranteed in a sacred fashion. That is, your needs must not be the property of others and must not be prone to being forcibly taken from you by any party in the society, or you will live in anxiety, your happiness will go away and it will make you not happy because you will be living within expectations which bring outsiders into your essential requirements." (From Chapter Two of the Green Book, pp 38-39.)

One cannot explain the phenomenon of bureaucracy, in reality, and press the masses of the basic people's conferences to the peak of aware mass dominance at a time when the contradictions of some instruments of execution and their administrative deterioration are becoming aggravated to excess, to the point of degeneracy, laxity and backsliding on the part of the people bearing responsibilities, a loss of reasonableness and a lapse of credibility in the eyes of the masses themselves. One cannot explain this phenomenon, which has arisen, grown and flourished in the context of some detachments for mass action periods, except by understanding this conflict between the depth of administrative contradictions and the process of the movement of the masses of the conferences, who are in solidarity with creating, legislating and determining the destiny on the soil of the Jamahiriyah of the great first.

It is in the demands or duties toward what is right, justice, fairness and certitude.

Although revolutionary action is what has spoken through slogans leading to a radical return to dealings based on natural rules, before the emergence of the setting of bureaucratic limits and the liberation of the parties to the struggle in the same situation, some instruments of execution in the secretariats of the people's conferences have, whether they know it or not, whether they are aware or not, sought to upset the radical contents of measures

as far as dealings with the requirements of the citizens residing in their jurisdictions are concerned. These secretariats have believed that they are far removed from accountability and questioning and have become a strong party in the society of the masses of the basic people's conferences, which are always striving to assert their dominance, that they are the source of sovereignty and legislation, and that no entity, whatever it may be, can exploit them or cause them to swerve from their demands and from responding to their will. However, some personnel, or let us say people they have assigned to carry out the masses' resolutions in the municipality of the five points, were not up to the level of dealing with their citizens, to such a point that these citizens were compelled to attend and frequent the people's and administrative locations in Tripoli in an attempt to explain their position, because of procrastination in some locations, and this constituted a fabricated barrier in getting their voice to the people concerned -- to the point where one wonders, in whose interests is it for a citizen to come to you from al-'Ujaylat or al-Jaghbub, submitting his complaint as a result of the avoidance by some instruments of execution of their responsibilities to the masses?

However we may try to cast blame on one party to the exclusion of another for the contradictions of the secretariat of the basic people's secretariat or the secretariat of the people's housing committee in the municipality of the five points, a picture must remain clear in our minds. This is that the administrative state of affairs has reached a point of disruption, lack of coherence and disorder where it has become subjected to the fact of its own derelictions, regardless of any guiding force possessing mass revolutionary effectiveness. However, this picture does not mean that it is out of the question to understand the elements of slowness in the performance of some material and real estate commitments and the aversion to set out logical, constant justifications which have shown aberrance in application and have been accompanied by tendencies toward an administrative neglect and laxity which are gripping the structure of some instruments of execution. In addition, one must not restrict responsibility as far as the parties in the people's committee of housing in the municipality of the five points are concerned.

What was apparent was that some of their former members had seized the reins of administrative affairs and matters. In spite of this, we must not view these factors in isolation from one another and must not evaluate them in an abstract, tranquil manner. Rather, whenever we have monitored them as they have been engaged in action and oversight, we have been diligent in our dialectical understanding of the mass situation itself. The instruments of execution in the people's committee of housing in the municipality of the five points must also realize that the emergence of the power of the people, aside from revolutionary activity itself, has not been alien to its historic moment, and that it is not reasonable that power of the people should emerge without a state of the masses. Therefore the people's housing committee of the municipality of the five points ought to have risen to the level of the course of the revolution in its treatment of the demands of its citizens and executive interaction ought not to have assumed a deviant character, constituting an uncouth evasiveness in substituting an objective mass alternative for the sake of the liberation of needs, the satisfaction of people and the

triumph of the downtrodden on the earth. It is worth pointing out, by analyzing the issue of the citizens residing within the area of specialization and execution, that we will content ourselves with this simple review and are holding onto the correspondence held between a number of the masses of the branch of the towns of al-'Ujaylat and the people's committee of housing of the municipality of the five points.

Forward, and the first forever!

11887

CS0: 4504/55

LIBYA

APPEAL ISSUED FOR GREATER ADMINISTRATIVE PERFORMANCE

Tripoli AL-JAMAHIRIYAH in Arabic 18 Oct 85 p 11

[Article: "Seriousness, Seriousness -- Production, Production"]

[Text] The streets are inundated with cars and people.

The markets are suffocated with congestion, and facilities as well. This is something that has happened, and there is no embarrassment about it, as they say.

When does this terrifying unparalleled congestion take place?

It is during official working hours, from 0700 hours in the morning to 1430 hours in the afternoon.

This means, simply, that instead of staying on their jobs, people continue to go about in the streets with the clamor and noise of the cars, whose horns are not silent for a single moment.

They continue to dawdle on the sidewalks and the unreasonable congestion in the markets and installations.

As to the worksites and production sites, praise God that their desks and machines have not left them too, to impinge on these people and make things worse.

If this problem has sated us, we find that this may all be attributed to the administrative laxity and chaos which are taking root through overt acts that are impudently and provocatively mocking us.

Each one of you, gentlemen, complains of laxity.

Each one of you says that some minor everyday transaction which does not take a few minutes is still burdering him for days or weeks or even months, although, with the exception of a few of us, we are the cause of what is happening.

This is not the way, gentlemen, we face the challenges of the enemies and their barbaric fangs and claws which are lying in ambush against us; this is

not the way for us to be the messengers of new civilization and the minaret and prayer direction for the peoples of the other world.

When, gentlemen, will we awaken from our disregard, go back to being masters of ourselves, and end this vile phenomenon, the "phenomenon of laxity"? When none of us will come back to say "a simple transaction burdening me for many days" and none of us will say "Where is this commodity, such as Tide soap for example?" as each of us buckles down to a serious, demanding job, not just during official working hours but even in the hours after official work.

Seriousness, seriousness;

Production, production.

11887

CS0: 4504/55

LIBYA

MEDICAL CARE ACHIEVEMENTS, PROBLEMS REVIEWED

Tripoli AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 7 Oct 85 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Salam Kashidan: "Civilized Achievements -- But !"]

[Text] During a journey of challenges lasting no more than 16 years, our people, by dint of the revolution and its destructive people's onrush, has waged a vicious struggle against backwardness in order to impose the form and substance of a new life for the Libyan Arab people. In the course of it our people have realized material and moral achievements that other peoples who claim rejuvenation and progress have not been able to carry out in decades of time.

The health sector, the subject of our discussion, has witnessed a great transformation. Hundreds of hospitals have been built, supplied with the most modern achievements of technology in this area. Sometimes we find that advanced countries do not have such equipment in their hospitals. Treatment is now free and medicines also are free. The specter of fear of disease which until recently was a factor which helped repress and deprive the people has ended forever.

Consequently, we now have medical universities in the manner of international universities, supplied with all the facilities this type of study requires to graduate hundreds of doctors who come to us from the people in order to take part in the construction process and stand as a deterrent barrier before their relentless enemy who is lying in wait, in order to raise health competence among the citizens. If we want to recite all the achievements in this area we will need greater time and further space on the back of this page. However, we do want to say that even while we mention all the achievements, this does not mean that we have closed the door totally; rather, the journey is long and hard at the same time. We have indeed managed to create a sound base to pave the way by which we can take off toward improvement. The material structure is available and modern as well, but we lack scientific means or management based on modern scientific method, if one may use the expression.

This is because we are faced with a group of criticisms. What this sector has been criticized for, and about, is what has been dictated by the "stage of transformation" and has resulted from neglect and shortcomings on the part of the general people's committee for health.

The presence of a number of schools in the medical profession and their convergence within a single hospital is one of the reasons which have led to a breakdown in the diagnosis of illness. Therefore every school has its own method of diagnosing illness. In view of a lack of proof on the part of a doctor, the situation makes it inevitable that a patient visit more than one doctor in a single week, which also results in the inappropriate dispensation of medicine; it is sometimes dispensed in accordance with the patient's whim, while he has no expertise in this area, leading to many catastrophes. In addition, it has led to the presence of "suitcase" middlemen, people who pursue the profession of medicine in their cars and homes and sometimes even on the streets. At the same time, medicines are dispensed from the people's treasury, after the citizen has paid the doctor who is dealing in them for them. The best example of this is Dr Michaliaks, Greek by nationality, and his private clinic in Janzur.

There are doctors who commit crimes against the profession but unfortunately are defended by public bodies which have appointed themselves to defend people who commit crimes.

The papers on the criminal case of Dr Sharma, Indian by nationality, are still with the office of the prosecutor, but the strange aspect of the matter is that the secretariat of the committee gave this person an annual leave the day after the incident, in spite of his responsibility for injecting potassium chloride into the vein of a patient, although he knew of the consequences of this crime in the law of medicine. Would that that had been all -- however, he came back to the Jamahiriyyah, cherished and honored, to occupy his original position in the children's hospital. But was he satisfied with this crime? He came back once again.

Dr Sud, a professor at the University of the First, was permitted to conduct a number of kidney biopsies on a patient at once although there was to which this should have been prohibited from occurring, and he was summoned for investigation; the committee of the University of the First for the venerable College of Medicine, which has started even to give scientific diplomas by its own decree, refused its support of him in that area.

It is truly a puzzle costly to science and people's lives how some people who have a diploma in medical studies are given the rank of associate professor though they cannot teach with such credentials on the one hand and occupy administrative positions in certain universities on the other. They have also avoided working in public hospitals because actual conditions will put them up against areas of specialization in the face of which their failure can be established. Therefore we see them trafficking in people's lives in the clinics of the Hospital of the First; the Kariu clinic is the best evidence of such instances.

Most people working in this clinic are members of the faculty of the College of Medicine of the University of the First, although a university's people's committee decree exists prohibiting members from engaging in any activity.

However, since it is a matter of business and commerce, the matter is not important even if it is at the expense of the students in this university,

because logic dictates that these people be interested in research and scientific preparation for the lectures they give, not in the Kariu clinic and the money it brings them in addition to their basic salary.

Popular support has also crystallized around the people's health committee decree to Libyanize teaching hospitals and give foreigners an opportunity to derive benefit in their area of specialization, in which they can acquire an academic position after they leave the Jamahiriya, whereas young Libyan Arabs ought to have been employed in these hospitals so that they could as a consequence acquire expertise which would benefit them when they graduated so that they could complete their studies. However, it seems the eminent hospital administration has something to gain from keeping the foreigners; therefore, we see them representing the role of defending them and insisting that they remain, even if that is at the expense of Libyan Arab doctors whose superiority in this area has been proved by diplomas from the world's universities. However, the problem of failing to give them an opportunity continues to remain an obstacle, since we find that what has been spent on visiting doctors annually is enough to teach 15 students in a specialized university: some of these visitors are people who receive compensation which is paid out annually whether or not they come to the Jamahiriya; 2,000 dinars are paid out in hard currency to Dr Hamilton, a specialist in children's diseases. More than that, this cost is not part of the total amount paid out in the event he comes.

However, the dimensions of this problem make us always rely basically on visitors and we conversely find Libyan doctors and specialists engaging in the profession of management. In the Children's Hospital for example there are nine specialists, of whom only two are now working while the others are involved in management, including one person who is outside the Jamahiriya. Has the society assigned them to be doctors or managers of administration?

However, it appears that the failure to put professional cards into operation has given a number of persons an opportunity to engage in activities which are not in keeping with their areas of specialization and in which they have not acquired an understanding either, leading to confusion, laxity and poor administration within this management, since the nature of these people's jobs is totally different from the nature of these forms of administration.

While these specialists ought to have formed a committee to monitor foreign doctors and carry out tests to ascertain the extent of their scientific ability and the specialization they pursue, it appears that the general people's health committee forgets or ignores the problems which occur every day and the mistakes committed by them against citizens.

It appears that its whole concern is to merge the pharmaceutical and health equipment company and appoint a board of directors for it. This is this committee's main preoccupation. Even when this attempt on its part is well known in advance, the purpose behind it is to evade condemnation by the basic people's conferences, which previously condemned the people's committee, condemnation which was embodied in the following:

The general people's health committee's failure to supervise health centers and doctors.

Poor distribution of doctors and specialists among municipalities.

Spending, squandering and a failure to provide necessary first aid vehicles.

A failure to instal imported equipment, in spite of its importance; some of it was subjected to damage because of the length of time.

A failure to oversee private hospitals and assess the value of the treatment in them.

A failure to give attention to Libyan Arab doctors and enhance their abilities.

Proliferation of medical mistakes.

Intercession and favoritism with respect to treatment abroad.

These are the points regarding which the committee was condemned by the people's conferences. However, the strange, astonishing thing is the choice of a factfinding committee; this came out of the same secretariat. What facts will the persons who have been condemned find against themselves? What does this mean?

Isn't it an attempt to rally around the decrees of the basic people's conferences, which have become knowledgeable and cannot in any case deprive people who want to rally around their decrees of opportunities?

Meanwhile, this committee has ignored shortcomings in medical equipment, resulting in a delay in some operations as a result of a shortage in equipment while large volumes were found stored in the company's warehouses. This makes the people's committee decree issued on the merger unlawful because that is not its area of competence on the basis of the provisions of Law 13 for 1981. What compatibility is there between these two companies that we should merge them with one another?

However, let the people who are profiting from this auctioneering realize that the masses, who have the power and the wealth, will not be silent about these excesses, that they cannot cover "the eye of the sun with a sieve" and that the civilized achievements which these people have made cannot in any event grant an opportunity to anyone who tries to manipulate them.

Meanwhile, if they do grant such an opportunity, that means not that they have forgotten or been negligent but that they will strike with a hand of iron at everyone who takes it upon himself to infringe upon the power of the people and their achievements of civilization. They are truly rowing against the current.

The people alone have the supreme, final word.

The people who have been unjust will learn the final fate by which they will be overthrown.

LIBYA

ABUSES IN MASSES' TOURIST FACILITIES DESCRIBED

Tripoli AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 7 Oct 85 p 10

[Article by Khayri Faraj: "Tourist Towns: The People's Achievements or Behalf of the Bourgeoisie"]

[Text] If you want to think about spending next summer in one of the tourist towns spread around along our coasts, you have only to pause briefly to set out calculations and figures bearing on your monthly salary and declare total austerity regarding your household expenses, so that you will be able to save enough money to pay for a month's stay in a tourist town. This will also require that you know in advance what it will cost to pay for a month in the tourist town so that you will enjoy yourself and enjoy the well-being of summer and the invigoration of swimming at its beaches!

Beware of raising your voice or expressing indignation when you discover the amount due for this month's stay, because you will be surprised at the response, which will disappoint you in the course of this future vacation as it informs you, in a "scientific" way, of the measurement of profit and loss and other things concerning "merchants and the international market," which you yourself think have become extinct in our country.

You will observe prices and accounts, in all their dimensions, with their schedules, the stamp on their pricing, the extent to which these towns and their management are concerned to set out the pricing and break it down into red, blue and black colors, using the red for actual pricing, and these towns' development and the increase in their income and "output" to the point where the price of a bottle of an ordinary drink has risen within these tourist facilities to total 300 dirhams now. The people who manage tourist activity always explain the rise in prices as "the interests of tourist activity." We do not know where these interests lie.

Who are the people who enjoy the tourist towns' services and beaches? Who can pay the sum of 1,000 dinars a month for a month in a tourist town, aside from the price of drinks, sporting activities and sometimes food?

The tourist towns which have been built with the Libyan people's money are the same tourist towns which the toiling elements of the Libyan people

cannot get into. They are the same towns in which the bourgeois, the remnants of the old reactionary society, roam.

Per capita income levels throughout the world show that the per capita income in the Jamahiriyah is to be considered a model for other incomes, but nonetheless it does not permit a stipend of 1,000 Libyan dinars -- approximately \$3,500 -- for spending 1 month in a tourist town, wherever it may be.

The prices of tourist activity are now largely exorbitant and lacking in any justification. This has been a reason why some Libyans go out to spend their vacations outside the Jamahiriyah. The difference between what a citizen might have to defray in costs for a month's vacation in a tourist town and what a trip might cost him is obvious. This is the negative result to which the exorbitant prices in the tourist towns have contributed.

The bourgeoisie's apparent and covert dominance of the tourist facilities belonging to the masses has become clear. When the responsible departments set out pricing which citizens cannot defray by any stretch of the imagination, they help pave the way for the bourgeoisie to take the place of the toiling masses. They have no concern but to be arrogant and crush the people's decrees underfoot. When the responsible bodies go to excess regarding tourist activities in worn-out bureaucratic departments and others in this respect, they are engaging in treason against the masses. Otherwise, what does it mean that the tourist towns have become dens for the recreation of the bourgeoisie, and for the display of their racy cars and all their types of Western possessions in the form of clothes, jewelry and the most modern classes of boat so that they can act arrogantly, stand apart from the rest of the people and compete among themselves?

These tourist towns have become a playground for the display of clothes, discos and the most modern bathing suits, in the style of Lady Diana and Carolyn Monaco. Different types of Western games concerned with gambling, night life and so forth, which the bourgeois families bring into these towns, have become widespread.

You will find this and if it does not become apparent to you from the first moment in the luxury apartments furnished for their account and in the halls and on the beach, you will find the daughters of the bourgeoisie promenading themselves most impudently and disgracefully in bathing suits which cover nothing of themselves but what a figleaf might cover. All this is the doing of the people who are trying to remove the masses from these towns and tourist facilities and allow this in the absence of oversight by the people.

The excuses set out as a measurement of profit and loss in facilities which the masses have constructed by their decrees and money mean nothing under circumstances when these tourist facilities become a base for the bourgeoisie from which their immoral poisons and their exploitative capitalist ideas emanate, and taking part in this means treason against all the masses' decrees aimed at equality and the citizens' access to everything without exception. With respect to profit, that is exploitation and no one can convince us that they might run at a loss at any time if their prices are changed so that they became accessible to everyone. They can accommodate

thousands of families and also cover their requirements without being compelled to imitate other countries in dealing with and treating guests. There will be no guests in these towns except people who come to our country for tourist activity; as for ourselves, we have taken the decision that they should exist, and they are like our homes, our cars and our factories, giving to us while we take from them and preserve them.

The matter of going to excess in pricing in tourist facilities has all gone beyond a point where one can be silent about it. We find cafes, restaurants and hotels raising their prices from time to time and do not know what the excuse is. The prices of beverages, vegetables and other food do not change over time. One of the supervisors of the restaurant even deals directly with the masses and sets out the pricing by himself, and when I asked him about the reason for the rise in prices he told me "That is the tourist pricing." It is a tradition on whose basis the other tourist countries act, plundering tourists, bleeding them white and setting out traps to rob them through tourist activity and in the name of tourist activity; how then is it in our case, as we are not familiar with profit or exploitation?

The "tourist" traps have been set for Libyans in the tourist towns first of all, and the charges for making reservations are now fantastic. This is the same tourist activity which is considered a recreation program in the Jamahiriyah, and it was set out basically to serve citizens. A number of massive projects have been built in this regard, but how can these people who act with the mentality of merchants and middlemen understand?

Exploitation is exploitation, no matter what its methods and excuses might be. The face of exploitation will not change no matter how much they try to give it other names, and raising prices under the slogan of increasing incomes and expanding job areas means that we are becoming merchants and that this right is given to institutions which bear the name of the Jamahiriyah. However, the Jamahiriyah will never be like this. There never will be people who are able to pay and receive and others who are not able to and will remain deprived. The tourist towns were set up on behalf of everyone, so that they can find recreation there with their resources and incomes. The pricing an individual or committee sets out by personal whim without considering the real cost of tourist excursions is exploitation.

Now you have only to go to these massive tourist facilities and you will find them as you wanted them to be. They have been designed in the most modern style and outfitted with every facility for recreation and are large, capable of accommodating all of you. However, in spite of all this, you will find them to be fortified castles with guards furnished with destructive weapons, and any toiling person who casts his glance at the list of prices will run away. If one of you can pay for this and get in, he will find that some of it has been used for the housing of nurses from Asia and others for elegant ladies. We will leave the rest, beyond what we have mentioned above, to people who want to find out by themselves. We know the rest of the serial. The toiling families the guards' weapons have frightened off have fled to roam from beach to beach or in what they call summer resorts, in which not even any lifeboats exist; those you will find to be numerous in the tourist towns, if you want to see them.

These are your facilities. They have been wholly integrated and made most beautiful, out of concern for the happiness of your children, whose money the bourgeoisie has stolen, bringing everything to them, even lifeboats, and keeping you away with the weapon of the committee's pricing, the director's decree or the trustee's bulletin. These people are concerned that things stay the way they are now, so that Filipino nurses can inhabit them and at other times they may be rented out furnished for a year to members of the bourgeoisie. You have not missed a single session of the people's conferences that have been held, Libyan Arabs, without decreeing and affirming the construction of more and more of these towns and other recreation projects.

These tourist towns have turned from massive achievements on behalf of the masses of the people to massive achievements on behalf of the bourgeoisie!

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IRAQ

BRIEFS

IRAQI GETS DEATH SENTENCE--A republican decree has been issued sentencing Salih Shalash 'Ali to death by hanging. Other prison sentences ranging between 7 and 20 years were issued against Najib Salih Sa'ud al-Qubaysi, Shawqi 'Abd al-Ghaffar Sa'ud al-Qubaysi, Yusuf Rashid al-'Ali, 'Abd al-Sadiq Jabir al-Sa'di, Muhammad Qadir Isma'il, 'Abd al-Zahir Battah al-Fadli, Fali al-Jabir Harbi Qati' al-Shammari, 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Qubaysi, Sabah Ahmad Salim al-Qubaysi, Sa'id Mahdi al-Mu'alla, 'Abd Karim (Khayt) al-Kinani, 'Ali Hasan Muhammad al-Hurr, Muhammad Jawad Kazim, Shakir Ahmad Salih al-Samarra'i, and Jawad Shalash 'Ali. These persons were convicted because Salih Shalash 'Ali, an Iraqi living in Kuwait, cooperated with them in smuggling a great quantity of Iraqi currency to Kuwait in order to purchase goods there and send them to Iraq, where he was to sell them to his agents, thus exploiting the special RCC decree allowing Iraqi residents abroad to bring their assets to Iraq in the form of goods and commodities and then to invest in real estate and projects in Iraq. 'Ali brought goods to Iraq which he bought with money he had smuggled from Iraq using drivers who work on the Bagdad-Kuwait highway as well as his own private car. It is estimated that he smuggled 1.5 million dinars. Another 370,000 dinars were seized as a driver was trying to smuggle the sum. He bought goods for himself and for those who dealt with him and received money from them. [Text] [Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Sep 85 JN]

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ISRAEL

ʿAL-HAMISHMAR ON W. BANK POLICY, TERRORISM

TA261829 Tel Aviv ʿAL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Sep 85 p 5

[Commentary by Pinhas ʿInbari: "Rabin in the Territories; The Same Policy, or a Change?"]

[Text] Even after it turned out that most of the complaints by inhabitants of the territories about IDF behavior were true [as published], one thing is clear, and that is that it is very doubtful whether the iron fist is the answer to Palestinian terrorism. It is not known whether paratroop or artillery companies have succeeded in capturing the murderers of Israelis in the territories, and since it is clear that they will not continue to walk around the markets of Ramallah and Hebron forever, the day they leave the anonymous murderers will creep out of their hiding places and carry on attacking, unless--and here lies the genuine answer to the plague of terrorism--the security services manage to get their hands on them.

A solution to the problem of terrorism does not lie in bringing in the paratroopers, they can create new problems which will make it easier for the terrorists to operate in the long term. The residents of the territories are not accustomed to this military pressure, apart from the short period of time when Rafal [Refaʿel Eytan] and Sharon, with the settlers' encouragement, followed a policy of making daily life as difficult as possible. This policy in the territories collapsed during the Lebanon war because the territories in fact became a front in that war. The pressure applied to the inhabitants under Rafal and Sharon was seen by the latter, at the time, as being justified in terms of their policy.

It is difficult to believe that Yitzhaq Rabin also has a similar objective in mind and so the question is: Why is he putting on the hobnailed boots of his predecessors. Perhaps the defense minister is concerned about the loss of the IDF's deterrent power after Lebanon and the implications regarding the behavior of the Palestinian young people in the territories. Bringing in the elite IDF units is designed to demonstrate that the IDF's power is unchanged and the Palestinians had better take care not to be swept along by the false charms of terrorism.

But this is not the main explanation. The genuine problems must be sought in Rabin's talks with the settlers. They threatened that they would patrol the

centers of the Arab towns by themselves, and Minister Rabin wanted to show that whatever the settlers can do, he can do better.

The moves accompanying the increased IDF presence in the territories may also indicate the absolute connection between the settlers' demands and the iron fist policy. There is a specific response to the settlers' demands in three of the additional moves; the deportation orders, the administrative detention orders, and the closure of the paper AL-DARB. It is true that the settlers had intended much more far-reaching moves: mass deportations and a total closure of the "PLO press"; but the Labor Party's defense minister, in this regard, instead of blocking the territorial demands of the settlers for the Jewish Quarter and Khirbat al-Rumaythah, is to a very great extent moving toward them, to the point where a senior defense establishment personality told this writer that it is only the restricting factor of the overcrowded prisons that is preventing administrative detentions on a much larger scale.

The intention to close the paper AL-DARB is arousing great amazement because it was only four months ago that the paper's owner, Dr (Tah) Halaq, received a license from the Ministry of the Interior. Since then he has not been guilty of any infringement of the censorship rules and it may be assumed that the file containing the material against the paper was not suddenly discovered just now. It is more reasonable to believe that some sort of paper was "sought" to silence the settlers' shrieks. AL-DARB was the victim.

Actually, the example of AL-DARB fits in very well with the entire policy. It is not pleasant to admit it, but what is now being implemented is a miniversion of the settlers' policy; deportations, the closure of papers, a massive Israeli Army presence in the territories, etc. The settlers' intention is clear, but why should Rabin want this? There is no answer to this, unless it is his desire to keep the settlers quiet during the period of time in which there is a political freeze on the process with Jordan, with the intention of making headway during the next stage with Egypt.

In any event, this policy is misguided and filled with dangers, and it is to be feared that in the long run it will achieve the opposite results, that is, an increase in terrorism, first of all from the political angle. At the time when the Likud was the oppressor (and there are people in the territories who are saying that it's oppression was less severe than that of the Labor Party) the moderates, those who wanted a dialogue with Israel, were able to tell the Palestinians that the Likud policy only represented 50 percent of the Israeli Nation and the Palestinians in the territories could find allies among the broad leftist camp. That is to say, the Likud's steamroller policy actually gave birth to an opening of the dialogue between public figures from the territories, headed by the leaders of the Fatah supporters, and a broad spectrum of people from what was then the opposition, including central figures from the Labor Party, with Shim'on Peres among them, (Yitzhaq Rabin, it should be noted, did not then take part in that dialogue) and, of course, the MAPAM leadership, such pivotal Shinui figures as Virshubsky, and Peace Now. Who will the public figures from the territories turn to now?! The dialogue with the Israelis might cease and the unavoidable alternative would be a reinforcing of those who believe in terrorism. Nor can flooding the

territories with elite IDF soldiers be an answer to terrorism, from a practical standpoint.

First of all, we must distinguish between the various types of terrorism in the territories. One type of terrorism is that of the Fatah organization. Because of its boast, that it is organizing all the Palestinians into a nationalist framework, almost a national one, under its wings, Fatah terrorism bears as military a nature as possible; very well-organized squads that undergo training through various attacks, as showcase in nature as is possible, in order to illustrate the PLO's boast of leading an organized nation with an orderly military arm. All this is aimed at making it possible for the PLO to take the administration of the territories into its own hands when the day comes.

The terrorism of the left is another type which it is difficult to characterize as genuine terrorism, and it is only for the purpose of this article that it should be put into this category. This is the activity which was the speciality of the former National Guidance Committee. It was against the use of firearms and believed in a civil rebellion directed by the leadership within the territories. This meant demonstrations, throwing stones and, at most, throwing Molotov cocktails. Since it had the advantage over Fatah in assuming leadership positions inside the territories, it did not look favorably on the infiltration of squads from outside, squads that would detract from the achievements of the leadership inside. It was against the Fatah version of armed struggle because it could not compete with it and this still applies today.

The third type of terrorism is that of the fanatic religious squads, and this is the main type of hostile activity in Hebron. The religious fanatic does not want to prove anything. He wants to strike at the infidel and the dagger is sufficient for him. Therefore, it is very unreasonable to assume that Yasir 'Arafat can be genuinely charged with responsibility for the stabbings in Hebron. After he took so much trouble to establish a genuine army in southern Lebanon, it would be a genuine retreat for the PLO's self-image if it were forced to resort to such a primitive form of terrorism.

The paratroopers are incapable of acting against any type of terrorism. On the contrary, the iron fist may only push anyone who is now on the brink of terrorism into taking the decisive step. From the practical point of view, it would be a grave error to mix these various types of terrorism together. If a youth who throws stones is treated as though he was a genuine terrorist, we are, with our own hands, pushing him into terrorism, because, in the conditions which exist in the territories, stone-throwing is more an action of political protest than one of military terrorism. The correct policy ought to be to stop the stone-throwers from opening fire. The current policy is not helping in this.

I have personal experience of this. At the time when I served in a post in the military government, some of my best staff admitted to me that when they were high school students they had participated in all the demonstrations, together with their friends. Luckily for Israel, at that time there was no Fatah jail, and so that stain of "terrorism" was not attached to them. Today

they continue to be devoted civil servants in the Israeli Civilian Administration. This generation's lot has not improved, nor has that of Israel. They are already marked as terrorists because of stone throwing. The chance of them being incorporated into the Israeli establishment is almost nil and there is much more of a chance that they will be incorporated into the PLO establishment.

This necessarily bears with it grave security dangers. The great humiliation of the donkey-kissing affair [a complaint submitted to the IDF against IDF soldiers who allegedly forced an Arab to kiss a donkey] has not added anything to the IDF's prestige. The defense minister must stand up to the settlers' pressures on this matter, too, as he stood up to them successfully over Khirbatal-Rumaythah.

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2 December 1985

ISRAEL

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOK ON PEACE NOW

Attack on Book

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Jun 85 p 12

[Review by Miri Paz of book "Peace Now: Profile of a Movement" by Mordekhay Bar-On, Hakibbutz Hame'uhad, "Red Line," 1985,, 154 pages]

[Text] As an active member and supporter of the Peace Now movement, Mordekhay Bar-On draws a portrait of a movement that is entirely good. This is not, God forbid, an attempt to deal more critically with the path taken by Peace Now, just a setting forth of glorified facts. "A movement which springs from the heart of the nation cannot be insensitive to the moods within it." Is that so? Bar-On apparently assumes that the heart of the nation lies in Rehavya. The statement that "its members cannot remain aloof from their neighbors' feelings" is equally as unconvincing, since it assumes that Kataman is somewhere off in the north instead of right next-door to Rehavya. This is one of the weak spots of Peace Now as a movement, and of Bar-On as its historian, which someone else with a more serious and critical approach will have to deal with.

With this comforting caresses the author continues to cultivate the image of Peace Now as the movement of the rich and beautiful children who are remote from the heart of the real Israel which is at the foot of the balconies of their homes far from there. It is hard to take seriously Mr Bar-On's anachronistic mouthings on the political background of the members of Peace Now, "which naturally brings them closer to the problems of poverty and aspirations for equality." Bar-On reviews the rise of the movement from the Officers' letter, the struggle over the peace treaty with Egypt, the struggle against settlements, and the war in Lebanon. The serious problem, both of "Peace Now" and of Bar-On lies principally in their incorrect reading of the nation "from within whose heart" they presume to have sprung.

Historical Review

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jul 85 p 17

[Article: "Politics: Peace Now--Portrait of a Movement by Mordekhay Bar-On"]

[Text] "The greatest fact to the credit of the 'Peace Now' movement is that it has clung fast to norms of good citizenship...and thus set an example of elegant and responsible opposition politics." This is how Dr. Yisra'el Sprinzak described Peace Now in 1979, about a year after its inception.

It was naive to believe that the movement would remain "elegant" in the whirlpool of Israeli political life, but the myth of the "elegant protest" of Peace Now took root in the public conscience so strongly that, more interesting than the real achievements of the movement, curiosity is aroused as to the cause of the fact that after all these years the myth of the movement's spontaneity and purity is still strong and exists even if in fact it is false.

The beginning of Peace Now indeed was the spontaneous call of the Tel Aviv Municipality to come out to Malkhe Yisra'el Square to celebrate the arrival of al-Sadat in Jerusalem. Since then this square has been transformed into a historic crossroads of protest demonstrations, and in fact has become a part of the Israeli cultural experience of the 1980's, although the Peace Now movement was born of protest: its commencement was the famous "Officers' Letter" sent to Menahem Begin, and its height was the mass protests calling for an inquiry into the events at Sabra and Shatila.

Bar-On examines the movement chiefly in a historical perspective, as is fitting for a basic, pioneering study of the topic. A large part of it is taken up by the official documents of the movement, an analysis of them, and of historical-official processes. There is no digging behind the curtains, and there is no consistent attempt to raise the curtain of the united front appearance of the movement that has had some disagreements and power struggles and moments of being dizzy with power. The secret of peace Now's media charm is an additional question which is not answered here, but this is really a question more suitable for psychologists to deal with.

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ISRAEL

BRIEFS

SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH--Spain and Israel on Friday agreed to cooperate on solar energy research. Spanish Deputy Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Martin Gallego told Energy Minister Moshe Shahal that Israel could participate in solar-energy experiments at research centres and test sites in Spain if it let Spanish scientists take part in similar experiments in Israel. Gallego was accompanied on his three-day visit by a senior official in charge of nuclear energy and another, in charge of research and development. No nuclear cooperation was mentioned, but Gallego said he expects significant collaboration in solar energy. [Excerpts] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Oct 85 p 3 TA]

FOREIGN DEBT INCREASES--Israel's foreign debt rose by \$230 million in the 2d quarter of this year. It now stands at \$23.5 billion. Two-thirds of the money is owed to the United States. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Oct 85 TA]

U.S. PLAN TO EVACUATE SETTLEMENTS--A new weekly entitled HAYARDEN [The Jordan River] is to appear today and will, among other things, report on a plan formulated by the top echelon of the Labor Party to hold a referendum on whether to maintain the rotation between Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir. In addition to this, the weekly publishes an interview with "M. Ben-Yisra'el," in which he says that his article in the ALEF YOD journal, which is published in Ari'el, was distorted by television and several papers. "I am sending them a signed article in which I will explain my views and my absolute opposition to a civil war or rebellion," he says. In connection with the classified document that reached Tehiya, the weekly publishes further details exposing a plan formulated in the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem for the evacuation of Elon More and 44 other settlements in Judaea and Samaria. HAYARDEN also interviews Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who says Israeli sovereignty should be extended to Judaea and Samaria, when the time comes. The HAYARDEN weekly is published in Jerusalem, and 20,000 copies will be distributed throughout Israel in the first stage. The members of the editorial board are as follows: editor, Dr Aharon Ben-Ami; assistant editor, Me'ir Ben-Gur; and director, Yitzhaq Meltzer. [Text] [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Nov 85 p 4 TA]

NEW DISK ANTENNA--The fourth dish which the Bezeq telecommunications company will soon inaugurate at the satellite station will not be used to improve intercity dialing on telephone lines. Our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports that the Bezeq Company intends the inland satellite antenna to be used to

transmit data and relay television broadcasts. Bezeq will lease a satellite relay from the satellite organization, at an investment of approximately \$5 million. The company director, Tzvi Amid, said there is no justification for using the satellite because there is hardly a settlement in Israel that does not have a suitable telephone connection. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Oct 85 TA]

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LEBANON

STATE ON BRINK OF BANKRUPTCY

Beirut CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY in English 28 Sep 85 pp 17-19

[Text] CNA--A disturbing report is published in today's AL JOUMHOURIAH about the economic situation in Lebanon. Famine, the report says, is knocking at the door of Lebanon. And the big question on everybody's lips is why are we down to this low level of security? The seriousness of the situation stretches to reach all members of the community. Even those who were spared up to now the ravages of war, are today looking around for a way out. In short, famine is creeping towards everybody. On some doors, it is standing waiting to be let in; on others it has been let in or forced in as long ago as the start of the war eleven years ago. And as far as the reputation of Lebanon as the country of prosperity and sufficiency is concerned, the facts prove the opposite.

Famine is encircling the necks of people in the name of the ever increasing cost of living. And the Lebanese society is threatened in its very existence. And the Lebanese, who have in the long past, enjoyed the benefits of their system, find out today that this very economic system is leading them through a short cut to the brink of starvation. And the big question remains why has everything been pulled out from under our feet? Why even a loaf of bread has begun to haunt our dreams as well as our reality? To answer this question we must undoubtedly admit that politics is the root of the problem. And security is an obvious consequence of the state of the politics. And with the deteriorating security situation, the dreadful spectre of famine crosses [passage illegible] our minds as it used to, the minds of our ancestors in this part of the world. So in attempting to answer the gnawing question as to why has the system collapsed? Why has it failed to resist the challenges of modern day economics? We shall take a few samples of the prevailing inflationary puzzles and try to analyse their possible causes and repercussions on everyday budgets.

The Causes of the Collapse

--The continuing deteriorating security situation since the start of the Civil War. As a result, the communications by road, or telephone, among the different regions of Lebanon have reduced some regions to virtual islands where exorbitant prices are charged for commodities and the consumers have little choice but to pay.

--The continuing Israeli occupation of a part of south Lebanon and the attempt by the Israelis to flood the respective south-Lebanese markets and through them the markets throughout Lebanon with their cheap goods a manner causing extreme damage to the Lebanese agriculture and industry. Even at the cost of bulldozing whole stretches and acres of trees, as they did to the orange groves, near Sidon, Damour and the south in general.

--The destruction of many factories within the industrial area of Kfarshima, the northern areas especially the Areedah textile factory at Bahsas near Tripoli. As a result of this stoppage, the workers are laid out sometimes temporarily but often for good, adding to the unemployment lists.

--The decreasing output of Lebanese production in such a way as to convert the Lebanese community from the benefits of a well-balanced economy to the hazards of depending solely on the imports from foreign countries to feed the consumer's domestic markets.

--Raging unemployment, and the resulting increase in the number of unemployed from about fifty thousand at the start of the war to nearly half a million unemployed today with little prospect of finding a job.

--The decreasing value of income resulting in a reduced spending capacity by individuals and to an inflationary stagnation in the economic circuit.

--The continuing and astounding absence of the state control of the vital sectors of food-stuffs and consumer goods in general. This together with the rising influence of local militias especially in so far as replacing the government organizations in their role of tax-levying and watchdog-controlling the traffic of goods in and out of the country cost the state about 200 million L.P. in lost revenue.

--A persistent deficit in the balance of payments of the state resulting in a reduced capacity to spend on some vital developmental projects.

--A fuel subsidy policy costing the state about 46 L.P. for every 20 litre gallon while a great deal of this subsidized fuel is smuggled abroad against huge profits.

--The reduction in the exchange value of the Lebanese pound under pressure by the other Arab currencies, but also by the \$U.S. resulting in a reduced buying power of the Lebanese currency.

--The abstention of major organizations from paying their dues to the state because as they say, they are unable to collect their own dues from the citizens, e.g. the Electric Power Authority of Lebanon.

--The reduction in touristic output of the country as a whole with its repercussions on the balance of payments.

--About half a billion \$U.S. paid to foreign workers in Lebanon. We mention for instance the servants and labourers case.

All and all some hard-hitting answers are expected to these above-mentioned questions without any signs of the state ever coming to grip with the situation.

LEBANON

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON SYRIAN MOVES AGAINST FACTIONS

'No Need' for Syrian Deployment

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 14-20 Oct 85 pp 18-19

[Article by Nadim Abou-Ghannam]

[Text]

Is the Tripoli peace plan applicable in Beirut and Sidon? If so how?

The Tripoli plan can be implemented in Beirut if both factions — the Lebanese Forces in East Beirut and the national forces in West Beirut — agree on it. But it cannot be applied in one sector only.

And what about Sidon?

There is no justification for such a plan in Sidon, yet its inhabitants would welcome it.

It is said President Gemayel will visit Damascus next week. What do you expect of this ninth Lebanese-Syrian summit?

President Gemayel will be travelling to New York to attend the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly, and it is in the interest of both Lebanon and Syria to agree in what will be presented to the assembly.

This is on the external level. On the internal level, a bilateral understanding will also help activate a political national accord.

I think it will be a useful trip, and that such meetings should always take place.

But you do not expect Gemayel to visit Damascus shortly?

I believe that if he wants to go to Damascus, it is to discuss the issues I have just mentioned.

How would you evaluate the tripartite meetings in Damascus, grouping representatives of Amal, the PSI and the Lebanese Forces?

I deal with the Lebanese crisis in openness of mind, and before the Lebanese Forces' attack on Sidon, we were on excellent terms with our (Christian) brothers in the eastern suburbs of the city, except with the Lebanese Forces who had not announced their rejection of the Israeli presence.

But now that the forces have openly stated their rejection of the Israeli presence and actually taken steps to prove it, I

believe the tripartite meetings will be positive and useful, and will create a positive attitude in the eastern regions that would restore harmony and unity to Lebanon.

Should the three parties reach an agreement, do you expect some Christian faction to oppose it on the grounds that it did not participate in its formulation?

There is bound to be someone who opposes such an agreement, but at the same time, the decisions would take into consideration this possibility, and as they will be national rather than factional or sectarian decisions, the opposition will be nominal.

I know the degree of nationalism of the two parties (Amal and the PSP) negotiating with the third party (Lebanese Forces), and I am confident they have no sectarian or factional goals. Consequently, the third party will have no choice but to adopt a similar attitude, and there will no longer be room for opposition. There may still be some people who oppose the agreement, but they will be a very small minority.

The Baath Party leader, Assem Kanzo, said there can be no solution to Beirut and Sidon except through the deployment of Syrian troops. What is your comment?

It is certain that there can be no genuine solution unless there are guarantees for the implementation of this solution, and the only guarantee is the entrance of the Syrian troops, who constitute an effective and loyal force which possesses the only means to save Lebanon.

In this light, a Syrian troop deployment will cement accord, guarantee its implementation, and preserve it. Security cannot remain so unstable, we need a powerful arm to guarantee the implementation of any accord, and this arm is Syria. Therefore, we must welcome its presence among us in order to allow her to implement accord and provide us with the security and tranquillity we long for.

Should the Syrian troops enter Sidon, do you expect Israel or the SLA to obstruct their deployment?

I do not know whether the Syrian forces will enter Sidon or not, and as I have already said, their are welcome.

The withdrawal does not prevent us, the people of Sidon in particular and of the South in general, from confronting (SLA commander Antoine) Lahd and Israel. We do not fear any Syrian presence here, and our mission against Lahd will continue and grow stronger every day.

The Syrian presence will not affect the resistance. I think that with the situation as it is in Sidon, there is no need for a Syrian troop deployment, as in Beirut or Tripoli.

Yet we still welcome them, and when accord is reached, we hope that the first region where the Syrian troops will deploy would be Sidon.

Salaheddin Arkadan said the security situation in Sidon is shaky. What is your comment?

I believe that what my colleague in the national political council was speaking about, deals with the attacks perpetrated daily by Israel and Lahd's militia against Sidon.

Sidon is being shelled nightly. I believe this is what Arakadan was speaking about. However, on the internal level, the inhabitants of Sidon enjoy great security.

Still this does not mean we must neglect the security issue.

and we must always follow the example set by the joint and popular committees.

Do you expect the daily shelling of Sidon to intensify?

Yes, but to no avail. This shelling is just a show of presence, and I can tell you that we are in constant contact with the Jezzini leaderships, with whom we are discussing the means of liberating this region.

Akram Shehayeb said the Beirut refugee camps face a great danger, and that their issue must be solved before it reaches illimited proportions. What is your comment, and what do you think are the dangers Shehayeb feared?

I do not think the security plan for the camps was fully implemented. If this plan were implemented down to its minutest details, the situation would be much better. I call upon all national and Palestinian factions in West Beirut to cooperate in order to fully implement the agreement, and once this is done, most of the fears will just dissolve away. This is what we did in Sidon, by implementing the Damascus plan in all its details, and this is what should be done in Beirut.

The papal envoy tried to visit Jezzini, but was prevented from doing so. Why?

The first time a papal envoy (Cardinal Roger Etchegaray) came to the region, we complained to the pope and said that, for the sake of Lebanon's unity and out of love for this country, he should have visited both Sidon and Jezzini, and not just the latter.

This time, when the second envoy came and sought to visit the other region, the leaders of Sidon did not know about it, and could not make any preparations or take adequate measures. I myself was absent at the time.

However, when we knew about his wish to visit the region, we welcomed him and provided him with a convoy to accompany him.

Some two weeks ago, a decision was taken to forbid demonstrations in Sidon. Did this have any repercussions, or did it end peacefully?
It always ends peacefully. ●

Al-Huss Sees Syrian Intervention

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 21-27 Oct 85 pp 18-21

[Article by Nadim Abou-Ghannam]

[Text]



Former Prime Minister Salim Hoss believes the direct intervention of a Syrian military force is urgently required to end the Lebanese turmoil.

Speaking to me on October 9, Hoss, who is now minister of labor and of education in the cabinet of Premier Rashid Karami, said an agreement on political reconciliation among the Lebanese was no longer enough to end Lebanon's ordeal. This was "because there is a sense in which the

crisis, with its accompanying lawlessness and instability, has become self-perpetuating, having taken on, as it were, a life of its own independent of the political circumstances in which it originated.» And this fact, he told me, «means that a vicious circle of conflict and disorder now exists into which the country will remain locked regardless of any political settlement that is reached.» Breaking this circle, he said, required the introduction of an external security force to impose and maintain order, «and in the present conditions this force can only be provided by Syria. It cannot be a Lebanese force because... the Lebanese factions are locked into a process in which violence breeds counter-violence, a cycle repeating itself indefinitely. There must be a direct Syrian intervention.»

Syrian troops are already present in Tripoli, following the conclusion under Syrian auspices on October 3 of an agreement between pro- and anti-Syrian militias to end three weeks of fighting in the city. Under the agreement the Syrian forces are to maintain order and supervise the collection of the militias' heavy weapons.

I asked Hoss whether this security plan for Tripoli would serve as a model for other Lebanese cities, particularly Beirut. It might well do so in Beirut, he replied, but only if it is implemented throughout the city, and added:

«It would not be enough to apply it only in West Beirut, since as long as the 'green line' exists, there will always be the possibility of clashes erupting along it, with accompanying movement of armed men in other parts of the city and bombardments that do not spare the depths of both sectors... Its successful application therefore requires (a) consensus embracing those living in both sectors, especially at the leadership level, in favor of the application of the plan. It is the absence of such a consensus on the two sides that is now impeding its implementation.»

The order imposed by such a force, in the context of national accord among the Lebanese, would not in itself be a final settlement of Lebanon's problems, Hoss said. It was necessary to distinguish between a «fundamental solution to the Lebanese problem, on the one hand, and a way out of the violence and tribulations we have been suffering for more than 10 years, on the other.»

He recalled that as prime minister in the late 1970s he had sought what he called a «'modus vivendi' between Lebanon and the Middle East crisis», a means whereby Lebanon could manage to live with that crisis and also carry on as normal an existence as conditions permitted. «Such a modus vivendi», he thought, «would not be a root solution for the Lebanese problem, which can only be arrived at along with a solution to the Middle East problem as a whole. But the modus vivendi I refer to would be a way of ending at least our present ordeal of violence in advance of an eventual resolution of the overall regional crisis.»

That this was possible, he pointed out, was demonstrated not only by the experience of other Arab states, where life goes on normally enough despite the measures made necessary to adjust to the crisis, but of Lebanon itself until the outbreak of the civil war. If, then, he asked, «we were able to live with the Middle East dilemma until 1975, why should we not be able to do so again in the future? The formula

under which we did so in the past may no longer be relevant. If not, it should be possible to work out a new one to fit our present circumstances.»

Here is the full text of the interview, which was conducted in English :

U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane said recently that there had been some progress in the resolution of the Middle East crisis. How far would you agree with his assessment?

The Middle East question is an intricate one, with many ramifications and implications, not only regional but also international. For unless and until there is real detente on the international level, particularly between the two superpowers, there will be no real chance for a solution in the Middle East.

Of course all eyes are now on the coming summit between Gorbachev and Reagan, where the Middle East question will no doubt be on the agenda. As things look now, however, it would appear that the leading topic on that agenda will be the question of disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. The superpowers will have to make real progress on this issue before we can expect progress on the question of international detente and consequently some progress on regional issues such as that of the Middle East. Whether the time is ripe for a real agreement to be reached at the summit remains to be seen.

If the statement refers to the initiative being undertaken under the Amman agreement between the Jordanian government and the Palestine Liberation Organization, I think this is an exercise in futility. I greatly doubt the possibility of serious talks between the PLO and the American administration because — if for no other reason — the Israelis will not countenance the holding of such talks.

Even if such negotiations did take place, I very much doubt that the U.S. administration would ever succeed in getting the Israelis to sit down for serious peace talks with the PLO. I

believe that continued conflict is Israel's *raison d'être*, and that it is therefore not genuinely interested in peace. Even if, for the sake of argument, we hypothetically assumed that at some time Israel were to meet the PLO at the conference table. I cannot believe such talks would lead to positive results or to substantive concessions, political, territorial or otherwise, on the Israeli part. That is why I think any progress towards peace is virtually impossible at this stage.

Peace in the Middle East is not something that any single Arab country can undertake to bring about its own. It is not attainable unless it is pursued on the basis of a common Arab position, one emanating from real Arab solidarity, and successive Arab summits have emphasized that no peace talks should take place except on the basis of such a common position.

That is why such strong objection was taken to the Camp David agreements, concluded as they were by one Arab state on its own. The Arab cause belongs to the nation as a whole, and no single state has the right to try and determine the fate of the nation singlehandedly.

The case of the agreement of May 17 (,1983 between Lebanon and Israel) was, I think, similar to that of the Camp David accords. Contrary to what some said at the time, this agreement would in fact have had a direct impact on the course of events relative to the Middle East question and hence on the fate of the Arab nation. It was in a sense a peace agreement with Israel, although the word "peace" was not mentioned, and it did prescribe a normalization of relations with it, although that phrase was not used. It was therefore another unilateral agreement, like Camp David, and as such was no less objectionable than Camp David.

One reason, of course, for this necessary emphasis on Arab unity is the fact that, under the circumstances, the complete imbalance in military power between Israel and any single Arab country would mean that negotiations between the Israelis and such a country would be a farce, a mere dictation by Israel.

In a nutshell, then, I don't think there has been any palpable progress on the issue of the Middle East. In fact, as I have said, I believe that, at this stage, progress towards peace is virtually impossible. But the final answer to the question can only be given in terms of what may or may not be achieved by the superpower summit.

In the context of that summit, what kind of solution do you envisage for the Lebanese crisis, especially in view of Gorbachev's recent statement in support of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence?

I have always drawn a distinction between a fundamental solution to the Lebanese problem, on the one hand, and a way out of the violence and tribulations we have been suffering for more than 10 years, on the other. When I was prime minister in the late 1970s, I sought what I called a "modus vivendi" between Lebanon and the Middle East crisis. Such a "modus vivendi" would not be a root solution for the Lebanese problem, which can only be arrived at along with a solution to the Middle East question as a whole. But the modus vivendi I refer to would be a way of ending at least our present ordeal of violence in advance of an eventual resolution of the overall regional crisis.

In support of this view, I would point out that Lebanon was, in one way or another, able to live with the Middle East crisis quite tolerably until the mid-1970s. Indeed, until the late '60s it was even thriving on that problem, in view of the fact that other Middle East countries were the scenes of political setbacks as a result of which capital and talents left those countries and sought refuge in Lebanon. It was only in the '70s that this country began to witness negative developments arising from the crisis.

If we were able to live with the Middle East dilemma until 1975, why should we not be able to do so again the future? The formula under which we did so in the past may no longer be relevant. If not, it should be possible to work out a new one to fit our present circumstances.

That such a *modus vivendi* is possible for Lebanon is also demonstrated by the fact that other Arab countries manage to live with the regional crisis, which adversely affects them, in varying degrees, as it affects Lebanon. I speak particularly of the states--of which Lebanon is only one--that border directly on the occupied land, Palestine. But it also touches the more distant Arab states as well, affecting them in many ways--in their defense budgets, in the amount they can spend on development, their support for the Palestinian cause, their direct contributions to the confrontation states, and so on. Yet despite these burdens, life goes on in these countries, law and order prevails, economic development continues. Why can't Lebanon follow their example?

To reach such a *modus vivendi*, we must pursue two paths simultaneously. One is that of national accord, of political reconciliation among the Lebanese. Such reconciliation would help Lebanon regain a measure of immunity from the vicissitudes of the regional turmoil while at the same time it

continued to fulfill its obligations to the Arab cause, seeking with the other Arabs a just and equitable solution for that cause in a way consistent with Arab aims and aspirations.

But national accord alone is no longer enough. This is because there is a sense in which the crisis, with its accompanying lawlessness and instability, has become self-perpetuating, having taken on, as it were, a life of its own independent of the political circumstances in which it originated. The crisis has acquired, as I pointed out in a paper of mine entitled "A Way Out of the Crisis", its own institutions, its own mores -- people think differently now -- its own generation that has been molded by 10 years of chaos and violence. And the fact that the conflict exists independently and is self-perpetuating means that a vicious circle of conflict and disorder now exists into which the country will remain locked regardless of any political settlement that is reached. Breaking this circle -- the second path we must pursue -- is therefore a task of urgent importance, one which may even take priority over that of reaching national accord, for which it must pave the way.

To break the circle, an exogenous factor must be introduced, i.e., an external security force which would impose and maintain order. And in the present conditions this force can only be provided by Syria. It cannot be a Lebanese force because, as I say, the Lebanese factions are locked into a process in which violence breeds counter-violence, a cycle repeating itself indefinitely. There must be a direct Syrian intervention.

Do you think the security plan worked out for Tripoli and enforced by Syrian troops would serve as an example for other Lebanese cities, such as Beirut and Sidon?

I think the agreement might very well serve as a model. Of course, it will work in the capital only if it is implemented throughout the city, in both sectors. It would not be enough to apply it only in West Beirut, since as long as the "green line" exists, there will always be the possibility of clashes erupting along it, with accompanying movements of armed men in other parts of the city and bombardments that do not spare

the depths of both sectors. The Tripoli formula cannot work in Beirut as long as the city is divided by a confrontation line.

There would be no obstacle on the political level in implementing the Tripoli plan in West Beirut alone, should the Syrians agree to step in. But because the two sectors are linked in a security sense, a decision must also be obtained from the eastern side before the plan can be applied comprehensively. Its successful application therefore requires the existence of a consensus embracing those living in both sectors, especially at the leadership level, in favor of the application of the plan. It is the absence of such a consensus on the two sides that is now impeding its implementation.

How do you see the meetings now being held in Damascus between representatives of the Amal Movement, the Lebanese Forces and the Progressive Socialist Party?

I must admit that I do not know enough about these meetings to be able to comment on them.

What do you think may be the local and regional repercussions of the kidnapping of the four Soviet embassy staff?

We denounced this action very strongly, as we have denounced all the other kidnappings of diplomats in Beirut.

If I were to volunteer an opinion, a very personal one, I would say that the way this particular kidnapping was carried out does not suggest amateurishness on the part of the perpetrators. I suspect that this was something going beyond the capability of the small local groups on the Lebanese scene. You know that our country, in the nature of things, is teeming with intelligence agents, and God knows who is responsible. Whoever it was has not served Lebanon's interests or those of the Moslems, though they claim to speak in the Moslems' name.

What are your expectations, as minister of education, for the coming academic year? How will the kidnappings of teachers and students affect the process of education? Have the militias offered you any guarantees that would encourage you to open the schools?

The instability of the situation was a major reason why I announced a delay in the opening of the school year for two weeks, until October 21. The chaos reigning in Lebanon is of course very detrimental to school life in Beirut and the rest of the country. Nevertheless, we do hope and expect that sufficient progress will have been made on the security level by the 21st to allow for a semblance of normality in school activity. ●

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 21-27 Oct 85 pp 22-24

[Article by Nadim Abou-Ghannam]

[Text]

AMDP The speech made on Sunday, October 14 by the chief of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, Elie Hobeika, was positive in more than one way, Deputy House Speaker Munir Abu-Fadel told the *Monday Morning*. "It seems to me that it came in response to the speech delivered by Walid Jumblatt in Dair Kamar... It was essentially similar."

Abu-Fadel said he shared most of Hobeika's views, and called him a "prodigal son" who has finally returned to his home, after severing his "alleged past ties with Israel."

Hobeika, whose militia is participating in the tripartite talks in Damascus, bitterly criticized President Gemayel in his speech, and Abu-Fadel implied the president may have been involved in ordering the army to shell the southern suburbs two weeks ago. "Gemayel did not try to stop the army," he said.

Abu-Fadel was confident that the ceasefire agreement reached in the Syrian capital by the Lebanese Forces, the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party would soon be implemented, and that no one had a chance of violating it, "because the belligerent factions themselves are the ones who formulated it."

"I do not think battles will erupt in Beirut or Sidon. Tripoli has taught everyone a lesson," he said.

Following is a translation of the interview, which was conducted in Arabic:

The "definitive" agreement to put an end to fighting, proclaimed by the tripartite committee in Damascus, only found its expression in more battles. Does this mean the failure of the forces actually contending on the ground?

Contrary to what you say about the failure of the agreement, I believe that as of today (October 17) or tomorrow, the agreement will be fully implemented because the belligerent factions themselves are the ones who formulated and will supervise its implementation, but also because Syria has a mission it will not give up that of closing the Lebanese security dossier in a definitive manner. Once things are normal again in Lebanon, we will constitute a supporting factor for Syria, as it is now supporting us, because these two countries are inseparable twins.

You do not think Wednesday night's fighting will be repeated?

No, I do not. I believe everyone will work seriously on the implementation of the decision taken in Damascus, once those who took it are back.

But what about the forces that did not participate in this decision?

I do not think any one has the slightest chance of presenting any obstacle to the ceasefire.

agreement, because those who formulated it represent the effective military forces on the ground. And should the Lebanese army violate this agreement, it would become just another militia. The president and army commander must stop all those who seek to violate the agreement. As to the other armed forces, I think most of them approve of the agreement and will not move against it.

But there is one fact we must always keep in mind, that of Israel's agents in the region, because Israel does not want things to settle.

Doesn't that mean the political agreements taken by the three factions are threatened?

I do not think so. The three parties that took these decisions in the presence and upon the advice of Syrian Vice-President Abdelhalim Khaddam have many responsibilities to assume.

They must first tell all their affiliated armed forces to stop, and realize that the war should be over. They must control all these things, and contact the other factions before the convening of the national conference. They must tell them that white smoke is rising, and that the security situation must once again be as it was before these painful events.

It has been said that the speech by Lebanese Forces chief Elie Hobeika aimed at unifying the Christian ranks, soothing the displaced Christians, and unveiling the identity of those who oppose the calls for a ceasefire. What is your comment?

I think the speech of the head of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee presented many positive aspects. It seems to me that it is equivalent to, or that it came in response to the speech delivered by Walid Bey Jumblatt in Deir Kamar, and before that at the inauguration of the Center for Research and Information. On that occasion, Jumblatt said he wanted a solution to the crisis, and an end to fighting.

I think Elie Hobeika's speech was essentially similar. It constituted a warning to those who reject peace, and a restatement of the Christian positions.

Hobeika repeatedly mentioned sisterly Syria and the role it is accomplishing, and I think this reveals a determination to restore peace, entente and security.

Had Hobeika not approved of all this, he would not have sent his delegates Michel Samaha and Assaad Shaftari to Damascus for talks with our brothers in the Progressive Socialist Party and the Amal Movement.

Moreover, Hobeika has received an invitation from Khaddam to go to Damascus, and this further proves the strong determination to solve issues peacefully, and thus end the state of war in Lebanon.

Why do you think Hobeika omitted any mention of those who were displaced from Nabaa, Ain Rimmaneh or Sin al-Fil? Why didn't he speak of the Lebanese national resistance in the South, why didn't he take a position toward South Lebanon Army Commander Antoine Lahd, and why didn't he call for a Syrian troop deployment to cement security in Lebanon?

In speaking of the return of the displaced, I do not think he meant only those who have been displaced from the Shouf and Aley, but all the displaced in Lebanon.

What about Lahd and the national resistance?

Maybe he didn't mention Lahd simply because he does not recognize him. It was in no way necessary to speak of him. As to the national resistance, he did touch upon it when he said «we do not want Lebanon to be a second Israel.» which means that he refuses the presence of any Israeli national or agent in Lebanon.

Are we to assume that you agree with the positions taken by Hobeika in his last speech?

I agree with most of what he said, and believe that as long as he is cooperating with sister Syria, and since he has severed all his alleged past ties with Israel, we can now consider him a prodigal son who has finally returned to his home, and realized that Lebanon cannot survive outside its Arab context and without open and frank relations with Syria and the Arab states for the sake of unifying the Arab ranks, because the Israeli enemy is present among us. I say it in all honesty, the only danger for the Lebanese Christians comes from the Israeli enemy.

Do you think the Tripoli battles are genuinely over? What is your reply to the speculations that fighting will erupt in Beirut and Sidon, and how would you answer Akram Shehayeb's statement that the Beirut camps are in great danger?

I think the Tripoli issue is over, and that everyone has returned to his senses. When the Tripoli battles were over, I said that the issues of Beirut and Sidon will also soon be

over, and that fighting was no longer probable in these two cities.

The Tripoli events constituted a lesson to everyone, and we do not want the capital to be destroyed another time, nor do we want any harm to come to the capital of the South.

As to the camps, there was, as brother Akram Shehayeb said, some danger of friction. But this was removed when certain measures were taken to separate between the belligerent factions, and thanks to the presence here of Syrian officers whose role is to prevent fighting. Thank God, they have succeeded in their mission, and I hope global success will soon be achieved in all parts of the nation.

So you do not think battles in the Beirut and Sidon camps are likely. But will not Lahd try to provoke fighting in the South?

You seem to be overestimating Lahd. What power does he have? Militarily, he is very weak and could not create any problem in the South were it not for Israel's backing. From what I know of Lahd, I can say he is not so foolish. He was one of the best officers in the Lebanese army, and I believe he will think twice before committing any action that may harm one inhabitant of the South.

When the Lebanese people and national resistance stand against him, not only his army but all of the region, including Jezzín, will be threatened. Lahd does take this into consideration and, as they say, he is in contact with

some Christian leaders who also take every possibility into consideration, and do not wish Lahd any harm for the sake of the security of the Christians in Jezzin and other regions.

In other words, you are confident that there will be no fighting in the South?

I am.

What results do you expect to come out of the visit Friday by President Gemayel to Damascus?

This visit differs from the previous ones because its major goal is to get information. President Gemayel wants to know the details of the tripartite talks (Amal, PPS, Lebanese Forces) from Syrian President Hafez Assad and his deputy before he addresses the U.N. General Assembly.

I do not think there is any conflict between him and sister Syria concerning the path to peace and security, since Gemayel wants Lebanon to regain its former tranquility.

There are some things that must be mentioned, especially concerning the president and army. The army has been criticized of late, especially two weeks ago for shelling the southern suburbs. It was said then that the president did not try to stop the army from doing so, while others say the army was simply retaliating. But when an army retaliates, it does so with the same caliber of weapons it is being attacked with, and not with tanks and 155 mm cannons.

Thursday's papers say President Gemayel will be going to Damascus to give his approval on the tripartite program and call for a national dialogue to formulate a new formula. Do you share this opinion?

As far as I know, this visit is one of fact-finding and approval on what the belligerent factions have decided, and a national conference is imminent. Syria will call upon some Lebanese leaders to convene this conference, which may be held in Damascus.

Do you think this will be convened within a month's time?

I think so.

U.S. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said Washington welcomes all progress towards peace and stability in Lebanon. What is your opinion on this American stand?

All the world must know that the American position in the Arab East is one of support to Israel. We have received generous emotions, but when we asked for something a little more concrete, the first thing the U.S. demanded was for us to pay its price. When we ask for aid, it provides it to Israel, and deprives us of it. Affection is one thing, serious work another.

LEBANON

SHAYKH SHA'BAN INTERVIEWED ON TRIPOLI BATTLES

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 30 Sep-6 Oct 85 pp 16-18

[Article by Nidim Abou-Ghannam]

[Text]



Sheikh Said Shaaban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, Tawheed, told *Monday Morning* that his movement was not fighting against pro-Syrian factions, but against the partitionist conspiracy. "We consider ourselves Syria's allies," he said.

Shaaban, the most fundamentalist Islamic leader in Lebanon, has repeatedly criticized Syrian efforts to reconcile Moslem and Christian factions in Lebanon, urging the establishment of an Iranian-style Islamic republic.

In this interview, he reiterated the call, adding however that "We want the Islamization of the world, and not just Lebanon".

Tawheed was previously allied with the Palestine Liberation Organization and has dominated Tripoli since the expulsion of Yasser Arafat in 1983. But Shaaban denied charges that there were any pro-Arafat elements in Tawheed.

"Our policies differ from those of Arafat," he said.

Shaaban would not pronounce himself on how long the Tripoli battles will last, and was against the thought of a Syrian deployment there. "The Lebanese Forces in Zahle (where Syrian troops recently deployed) were Israeli agents. We are not," he said.

He also bitterly opposed the thought of surrendering arms. "We are living in a jungle. Anyone who is not armed is bound to be devoured by the rest," he explained.

Following is the full translation of the interview, which was conducted in Arabic:

Can you tell us anything about the Tripoli battles?

What is going on in Tripoli is an attempt to subjugate the Moslems, as they were subjugated and divided in Beirut. For the Moslems are the only power that can reunite Lebanon, and this power is being thwarted in order to accomplish the partition plan.

We in Tripoli are not considering the establishment of a Sunnite Palestinian canton, but hope to unite Lebanon and the whole region. Our Islam is much larger than the cantons or mini-states created by Sykes-Picot, and this is the major reason for the battle waged against us, because we reject the division at which the Israeli colonization aims.

In other words, the battles that are going on in Tripoli are battles against partition?

They are battles against partition on our part, and for the rule of foreigners on the part of others, and I mean the foreigners that have different thoughts, such as the parties that are trying to gain hegemony over the city through regional powers that wish to abrogate the role of the Moslems and limit the Lebanese cause to symbols of conflict and clashes.

How would you describe your relationship with the Syrian officials?

It is good on our part, and we hope they reciprocate our feelings by not allowing the parties to shell us with rockets from their positions in the city.

How long will the battles in Tripoli last?

God almighty knows.

Do you think the meetings that are taking place will achieve a ceasefire and reconciliation?

They may lead to this result. If the issues we have presented are agreed upon. But the Moslem cannot surrender his weapons before the Jews, the Phalangists, the Lebanese Forces and the warring parties in Beirut do. The Moslems cannot surrender their weapons. When they did so in Beirut, in compliance with the first security plan, they were massacred and they still are massacred.

How would you comment on Karim Pakradouni's statement that the problem of Tripoli will be solved as the problem of Zahle was solved, by the deployment of Syrian troops?

Karim Pakradouni has his opinion, and we have ours. We are not against just solutions, but we are against the solutions of hegemony, oppression and humiliation. We are against being dictated what positions to take.

Anyway, the Lebanese Forces in Zahle were Israeli agents, and we are not. We consider ourselves Syria's allies, but Syria still has to realize this truth, deal with us on this basis and not favor certain parties in a manner that makes a rapprochement with her difficult.

Do you agree with the idea of collecting weapons from Tripoli?

We will be the last to surrender. We will not surrender our weapons before the Phalangists, the Forces, Jumblatt and Nabih Berri do so. We are living in a jungle of beasts and weapons, where anyone who is not armed is bound to be devoured by the rest.

How do you assess your relationship with Ministers Berri and Jumblatt?

The truth is that our relationship with them will improve when they relieve Beirut of the harm and conflict. But as long as they are there as tools of destruction, we cannot befriend them. We only befriend those who work on removing tension and destruction.

Somewhat it seems that whenever the situation deteriorates in Beirut, a security escalation erupts in Tripoli too...

We do not try to hit back, we are being unjustly blamed. We

are not guilty except of wanting to play our role, while we are asked to surrender without any consideration for our opinion. No one, no party accepts this. We believe that we can have a brotherly dialogue with others, in the right atmosphere in order to restore peace.

Do you think the battles that erupt every now and then in the Beirut camps are linked to the battles in Tripoli, and will they spread to Sidon?

I don't know. A disease can spread to all parts of an organism. Many are those playing with fire, but the only catalyst is Israel.

The Tripoli battles started after the meeting of the Jordanian and Syrian foreign ministers in Saudi Arabia, and many observers say the pro-Arafat groups are behind them. What is your comment?

We do not have any pro-Arafat element in our ranks. Abu Ammar (Arafat) left Tripoli in 1983 and will not return to it till he returns to Palestine. Our only motivation is our Islamic liberation principles. We want to contribute to the liberation of Lebanon and Palestine from the Israeli and regional hegemony which are trying to turn all conflicts to the service of Israel.

How would you comment on the frequent battles in West Beirut between two allied parties, Amal and the PSP?

It is one of the oddities that abound in Lebanon. We have seen a brother killing his brother, and an ally fighting his ally.

It is all part of the partitionist game that aims at weakening everyone in order to secure the hegemony of one master, according to regional plans.

How do you evaluate the meetings in Damascus between representatives of Amal, the PSP and the Lebanese Forces?

They are meetings between factions that provoke sectarian tension and flare-ups in Lebanon, while each of them claims not to be sectarian-motivated. But I don't see how it could be sectarian, because this kind of battle actually divides the region where the three factions are present, in order to create cantons there. I hope this will never happen.

So you reject these meetings in Damascus?

I do not reject meetings, I reject all conspiracies that aim at dividing our country.

Political analysts say you are working for Abu Ammar. What is your comment?

Our answer is that our principles do not agree with those of Abu Ammar. He works for his own interest, and calls for secularism, while we are working on building our nation according to Islam.

Does that mean you want the Islamization of Lebanon?

We want the Islamization of the world, not just Lebanon, but we will not force Islam upon anyone.

Will you participate in a Lebanese conference held in Damascus or anywhere else to solve the Lebanese crisis?

When we are confident the meeting will achieve progress and the salvation of Lebanon, we will not refuse to participate in it. But I still do not see any serious attempt to solve the Lebanese crisis.

Do you think our crisis is organically linked to the regional crisis, and that it cannot be solved before a solution to the regional malaise is found?

I believe a solution to the Lebanese and regional crises cannot be achieved until Israel evacuates Palestine, because the conflict that prevails in the region has two aspects: U.S.-Israeli conflict and the Soviet-Eastern conflict, while we are paying the price of both.

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LEBANON

LEBANESE FORCES OFFICIAL SEES MAJOR FACTION RAPPROCHEMENT

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 30 Sep-6 Oct 85 pp 20-23

[Article by Nadim Abou-Channam]

[Text]



Karim Pakradouni, head of the public relations department in the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, said that previous «traditionalist» attempts at dialogue had failed in Geneva, Lausanne and through the national unity government of Premier Rashid Karami, and that an attempt to conduct a «non-traditional» dialogue was bound to be made.

«A rapprochement between the Lebanese Forces, the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party is imminent», he said.

Representatives of the three parties met in Damascus Tuesday. Pakradouni explained that the March 12 «uprising» has «managed to bridge the gap between the Forces and Syria», as well as severing the ties with Israel and its client militia, the South Lebanon Army.

In addition to these two achievements, the «uprising» also proved the ability of the Lebanese Forces to take a free and independent political decision, he said.

«Before the uprising, the Forces were politically, militarily and financially dependent on the Phalangist Party. But they have since become independent.»

Pakradouni spoke at length about the issue of political sectarianism, and expressed his regret that most leaders «think about this issue with their tongues, not their brains.»

Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah «is the most objective leader in dealing with this issue. How I wish an intellectual dialogue could be held with him,» he said.

Following is the full translation of the interview, which could not be conducted face-to-face because of the closed crossings between the two halves of the capital. Pakradouni sent *Monday Morning* written answers to the questions we asked him on the telephone.

How do you assess the relationship of the Lebanese Forces with Syria?

Since 1978, this relationship was one of enmity and «cold war». But the March 12 uprising managed to bridge the gap between the two sides with a speed no one had expected, and this shows the Forces' capacity to take a free decision.

Consequently, the relationship was now changed from one of enmity to one of negotiations, from strain to open bridges.

What can you tell us about the future relations between the Forces, the Amal and the PSP?

The dialogue of the «traditionalists» has failed in Geneva, Lausanne and the national unity government, so an attempt to conduct a non-traditional dialogue was bound to be made. A solution cannot be based on past principles, but on foundations for the future.

Only those who have known and borne the dangers of war can lay down the foundations of peace. In this sense, I consider that a rapprochement between the Forces, Amal and the PSP is imminent, that this reconciliation will be out of the ordinary, characterized by a new mentality, and that it will constitute a means to a solution.

Do you think the situation in Tripoli will reflect on the camps in Beirut and Sidon?

The common ground between events in Tripoli, Beirut and Sidon is the struggle between Syria and Yasser Arafat. In this sense, everything that happens in Tripoli will affect Beirut and Sidon, and vice versa.

The escalation provoked by Palestinian factions in Tripoli means a continuing threat against the Syrian role, coupled with the continuing linking between the Lebanese and regional crises, meaning with the solution favored by Jordan's King Hussein and Yasser Arafat.

As to Syria, it is trying to settle the situation in Tripoli by deploying the Syrian army there, in order to impose security and sever the link between the Lebanese and regional crises, in a way that would secure a Lebanese solution supervised by Syria, free from the attempt to internationalize or Arabize our cause.

The solution to the Tripoli issue will be like the solution to Zahle.

What is the position of the Lebanese Forces towards the South Lebanon Army and its commander, Antoine Lahd?

The March 12 uprising had settled this issue when it unilaterally decided to withdraw all its forces from Sidon, its suburbs, Jezzine and the border strip. This decision has three practical results :

- 1 — severing the ties between the Forces and the SLA.
- 2 — no longer linking between developments in the South and inside the country.
- 3 — Removing the Israeli influence on the Lebanese solution

How will the Arab summit to be held in November reflect on the situation in Lebanon?

Until now, there are no indications that the Arab summit will be convened. But if it is convened, I do not expect any positive results to come out of it, because all Arab summits — with the exception of the Riyadh and Cairo summits in 1976 — have reflected negatively on Lebanon.

The inter-Arab war is at its worst, and I have no hopes of an Arab solution to Lebanon. Syria alone can achieve any improvement in Lebanon.

The most we can hope for is that the Arabs spare Lebanon the repercussions of their numerous conflicts, which spread from the war of regimes to the Gulf war, passing by the recent Amman accord.

What are the repercussions of the Jordanian-Syrian meetings on the Lebanese scene, and what is Arafat's position towards Lebanon?

Arafat's strategic mistake was to link between the Palestinian and Lebanese causes, and to interfere in Lebanese affairs as if they were internal Palestinian affairs. This is why when he lost Sidon and Beirut in 1982, and the Bekaa and Tripoli after that, he also lost the Palestinian cause and leadership.

Yet Yasser Arafat continues along this same strategy. Just as he entered Lebanon in 1969, with the support of Syria, by means of a provoked escalation in the Muslim-Christian conflict, so he is now trying to return to Lebanon, with Arab anti-Syrian support, by means of a provoked Sunni-Syrian conflict.

Therefore, Syria's policy today aims at controlling the security situation, while Arafat's policy wagers on an escalation.

With the recent battles in Tripoli, political analysts are saying that the Lebanese and Palestinian causes have been linked again. Does that mean the Lebanese war will continue as long as the Palestinian problem remains unsolved?

Linking the Palestinian and Lebanese causes constitutes a loss for both peoples.

Out of love for the two causes, or at least for one of them, we must separate between the Lebanese and Palestinian issues. This separation means the practical ousting of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from Lebanon, meaning the prevention of any Israeli or Palestinian interference in Lebanon. The South is the «Israeli gate» that must be closed if the solution to Sidon and Jezzín is to succeed, and Beirut and Tripoli are the «Palestinian gate» that must also be closed if the Damascus agreements are to be applied in Beirut and Tripoli.

Do you expect any Israeli withdrawal from the South? If so, when?

Israel never really withdraws, and always leaves behind a time-bomb that it explodes according to Israeli timing. Let no one imagine that Israel is no longer in Lebanon or that it has suddenly decided to keep away from the Lebanese game.

Do you expect a military or a political solution to Jezzín?

There will be no military solution to or for Jezzín. The solution lies in the will for coexistence between Jezzín and its surroundings.

Do you expect a security escalation in the Sidon camps?

Sidon is part of the Syrian-Palestinian and the Syrian-Israeli conflicts, which are both heading toward a clash and consequently a security explosion. This is why I logically believe the situation in Sidon to be explosive.

Do you think the clashes in West Beirut will spread to other regions, or will they be confined to West Beirut?

I think the clashes have already spread, and it is preposterous to speak of their spreading in the future. For in addition to the Syro-Palestinian conflict, there is a Sunnite-Shiite conflict which is taking a violent aspect, and a Shiite-Druze conflict which has become obvious, though still limited, and which has moved from the coastal highway between Khalde and Sidon to the Damascus road, and the inter-Shiite conflict in the Bekaa.

How would you comment on the economic situation and the collapse of the Lebanese pound?

The economic situation and the decrease in the value of the Lebanese pound are more dangerous than shelling and destruction. Two things characterize Lebanon: its pound and the level of education.

Both are deteriorating. The continuing deterioration of the level of education will lead to the loss of Lebanon's reason for existence, its intellectual superiority. For what will be the use

of Lebanon when it stops producing the brains of the region? And the continuing deterioration of the Lebanese pound will lead to a social revolution.

Most Christian factions are determined to preserve political sectarianism, while the Moslems are equally determined on abolishing it. What is your personal opinion on this issue, and how can we reach a solution in the light of the two opposite opinions?

Allow me to say that your question is very simplistic. The issue is not that easy, and the positions are not so simple.

I will start with myself, by telling you that I personally am for the abolition of sectarianism in all fields. I want a secular, progressive and modern system for my nation.

But is it true that the Moslems want to abolish sectarianism, while all the Christians refuse this? And what is the meaning of sectarianism?

When the issue is as hot as that of sectarianism, I deal with it coolly.

But I would like to point out here that the great majority of politicians think with their tongues, not with their brains. The most objective leader in dealing with this issue is Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah who thinks with his brain, not with his tongue. How I wish an intellectual dialogue could be held with him on this issue.

As a preparation for this dialogue, I would like to point out that sectarianism involves three aspects: Sectarianism as a political weapon, as a social system and as distribution of power.

Sectarianism as a weapon is a crime, because it means hatred, the involvement of religion in conflicts between people, and a return to the sectarian Crusades and Jahilliyah periods. Such a manipulation of religion is essentially rejected.

As to sectarianism as a social system, meaning the implementation of religious laws in personal affairs, courts of law and education, this represents no problems for the Christian who readily accepts the separation of religion and state. But the problem does present itself for the Moslems who consider Islam as both a religion and a system for the state.

Concerning the third aspect, sectarianism as distribution of power, the Moslem politicians are dealing with this issue from an approach that calls for a change in the sect of the president of the republic alone, whereas sectarianism prevails in all posts and leaderships. And the Christians fear the abolition of political sectarianism because they believe this measure will be the surest way to Islamize Lebanon, an idea they reject.

But in addition to this historical fear, there also is an intellectual fear. For in case political and administrative sectarianism, which provides for the minimal level of participation of all sects in power and some sort of balance between these sects, is abolished, the danger will come from two directions; A deterioration in the conflict between the Moslem and Christian currents, whereby each will try to secure the greater share for his religion, whereby the greater sect will try to secure the share of the smaller sect. If this happens, the smaller sects will be isolated from the power, and there will be winner and loser sects.

Abolishing political and administrative sectarianism without agreeing on a just system means paving the way for a policy of victor and vanquished. And this in turn means the continuation of the Lebanese war forever.

I have numerous examples, and can talk at length about this issue. A sectarian system, if people stop manipulating it for their own interest, can provide some sort of participation in the rule. And should we wish to abolish it, we must be very careful about adopting a substitute system that provides for greater participation, greater balance. The least we should do is to replace the sectarian system with a better one.

Returning to your question, I think it would be more relevant to speak of the substitute system rather than the means of overcoming the deadlock. And I would also like to stress that we need a transitional period before establishing the new system. This is why I suggest a national dialogue covered by all the media and where the two following questions will be answered:

1 — Which is the substitute system that can provide optimal participation and balance?

2 — What is the nature of the transitional period that provides for change towards greater stability and guarantees?

What are the main clauses of the Lebanese Forces' program for a solution?

The Forces have decided to keep their document secret, for two reasons. First, because our document is open to changes and needs some updating, and we do not wish to announce one thing and become prisoners of stated positions, as others have become. Secondly, because our document expresses convictions that we do not wish to subject to concessions and negotiations.

Generally speaking, I can tell you that the Forces' document states two major issues; our understanding of the principles on which a peaceful nation can be constructed, and Syria's role in the search for a solution. A third topic remains to be specified in future meetings, that of the nature of the transitional period of change.

How would you describe the relationship of the Forces with the Phalangist Party?

Before the uprising, the Lebanese Forces were politically, militarily and financially dependent on the Phalangist Party. But since the uprising the Forces have become politically and militarily independent.

The uprising has achieved two things: A united Christian military command, and the participation of all the Christians in the Christian decision.

But these two achievements, despite their importance, are not enough, and we believe that we must base our political life on new foundations.

We are a force of change that looks for the establishment of new and modern institutions. Consequently, I call for the formation of a large democratic Christian party that includes all intellectual and youthful leaderships, and invests all our human resources, which are abundant.

House Speaker Hussein Husseini said the Lebanese issue is not on the agenda of the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting. If you think otherwise, how do you expect the superpower summit to reflect on Lebanon?

When the superpowers meet, the whole world is on their agenda, with certain priorities of course. Lebanon is not one of those priorities, but its issue will be discussed, directly or indirectly, in the framework of the discussions around the Middle Eastern crisis.

However, the indications present until now are not positive, and the summit does not promise to be one of major solutions. Therefore, Lebanon will remain subject to small solutions and delayed crises. I do not have great expectations of this summit, and still believe that a solution that is not engineered by the Lebanese and the Lebanese reality is bound to be limited in scope. The solution lies with us, not with Gorbachev or Reagan. ●

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LEBANON

FINANCE MINISTER SUPPORTS LIFTING FUEL SUBSIDIES

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 7-13 Oct 85 pp 20-22

[Article by Nadim el-Hachem]

[Text]

As acting finance minister, what can you tell us about the issue of fuel subsidies, and how will the lifting of these subsidies reflect on the exchange rate of the national currency?

The problem of fuel subsidies is two-fold. The continuation of these subsidies will be detrimental to the Treasury, which is already recording a large deficit. But on the other hand, the lifting of subsidies will further harm the social position of the citizens, half of whom are displaced.

I had decided to suspend new import deals, but this reflected negatively in Lebanon, and more particularly on the Electricité du Liban, which would be forced to close down if fuel imports are stopped. Similarly, the bakeries, industries, hospitals and transport fields will also be affected if fuel imports stop.

I suggested two things. First I suggested that fuel subsidies be lifted and that the jerrican of gasoline be sold at the cost price. Consequently, the state benefit would have been invested in social programs aimed at helping the low and middle classes. Then I suggested that the subsidies be gradually lifted, meaning that 50% of the subsidies be lifted in the first stage, 75% in the second stage and 100% in the third stage.

The truth is that we are in such a critical situation because we had reached an important deadline before President Amin Gemayel could convene meetings to discuss this issue. We have seen how the Electricité du Liban, along with all factories that require diesel to operate their machines, are facing a true crisis because the petroleum industry has stopped its imports, and we had no choice but to avoid this and act in order to prevent a fuel crisis. We have signed two contracts now, one for a cargo of gasoline, and the other for a cargo of diesel oil. The price of these has not however been agreed upon yet, and we are still awaiting a political agreement on the lifting of fuel subsidies, by the ministers and prime minister.

And how will the lifting of subsidies affect the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound?

There are two differing opinions around this issue. Some say the lifting of subsidies will strengthen the Lebanese pound against other currencies, especially the dollar. However, I heard one central bank official say only yesterday that the lifting of subsidies will in no way affect the strength of the pound.

I am no financial expert, yet I think the lifting of fuel subsidies will be greatly beneficial both to the Treasury and to the Lebanese citizens who, in the final analysis, are paying from their own income to a handful of smugglers and fuel merchants.

Why have telephone communications become so difficult?

I'll tell you in all honesty that in such circumstances, to have one operational telephone line is a miracle and a great achievement. Even when the state was prospering, we always had problems with communications, if only because some of our networks are 30 to 40 years old. We have modernized many of these networks, and have introduced the electronic system in more than one central station.

Take Jounieh for example. In the past, it was almost impossible to place a call from Jounieh to any number beginning with 9. But this is no longer so. We have renovation plans for all Lebanese regions, but the security situation prevents us from implementing them.

How would you describe the current Tripoli battles, and do you think they will reflect on other parts of Lebanon?

It is natural to say the events in Tripoli are not an internal affair, but are part of the regional, if not the international game. They will also have long-term effects on the demographic distribution in Lebanon, by which I mean that the crystallization of things in Tripoli will shed light on things in other areas.

And how do you think the kidnapping of Soviet officials will reflect on the situation?

It is quite well-known that terrorism often turns against the terrorists themselves. I am thinking about Robespierre and the French revolution. Robespierre led so many people to the guillotine, yet died on the guillotine himself. History is full of such examples. Terrorism has no limits, and now we see how Lebanon, which has become a nest of international terrorism, is threatening all sorts of diplomatic missions. The latest kidnapping is part of the terrorism which Lebanon is practicing in order to put pressure on various countries.

What do you think of the Iranian initiative to end the Tripoli battles?

Whatever the initiative, we favor an end to this bloodbath. I am firmly convinced that objective democratic dialogue is the ideal solution to all problems. If the Iranian delegation is concerned with ending the tragic events in Tripoli, I say that I always favor initiatives that aim at replacing violence with dialogue and negotiations.

The tripartite committee, comprising the Lebanese Forces, Amal and the PSP, is pursuing its meetings in

Damascus. Do you think these meetings will be fruitful?

I hope they will bear positive results because, to speak the truth, dialogue, democracy, politics and politicians are all paralyzed in Lebanon.

As long as decision-making lies in the hands of the warlords, let them decide to make peace, which is what all the Lebanese are calling for.

What is the position of the Phalangist Party towards these meetings?

The Phalangist Party does not object to any contacts. Quite the opposite, it favors all meetings that reflect positively on the nation.

How would you describe your personal relationship with the Lebanese Forces?

Unfortunately, this relationship deteriorated recently, when the Lebanese Forces took over the Voice of Lebanon radio station, which I consider my favorite child. The kidnapping of my daughter at Beirut airport did not affect me as the kidnapping of my favorite daughter, the Voice of Lebanon, and I hope that this child is soon restored to its legal parents.

The Voice of Lebanon is a private enterprise registered in the commercial records. Lawyer Karim Pakradouni and the late Pierre Gemayel have laid down its rules. This company has appointed Joseph Hashem as its director for a period of 25 years, and I do not think it legal that others take it over.

Will you be visiting Syria shortly?

I had meant to go before I was hospitalized, but developments have occurred since, and we are now awaiting the crystallization of the contacts with Syrian officials, so that we too can contribute to common understanding and national accord in Lebanon.

Do you think a Lebanese-Syrian summit is imminent?

I do not know about this, but there are constant contacts between the two presidents, coupled with discussions on the political and security issues in Lebanon.

What has become of government meetings and ministerial councils, and is it really acceptable that ministers do not meet in such circumstances, when one development is fast succeeding another? Do you think the national unity government should be replaced?

Long before the government stopped meeting, I had already suggested the formation of a new one, or the enlargement of this one. I had suggested this some seven months ago, and I kept bringing up the issue at all meetings, but circumstances were against me. This has become even more urgent now, especially as the government is completely paralyzed and impotent. The present situation in the government may lead to a constitutional void in the future, and this

necessitates great caution in preserving some link between the structure and infrastructure of the state.

However, there are positive aspects too, namely that in the past, the government resigned and all links between the president, the premier and the house speaker were suspended, whereas today these three are constantly meeting and coordinating their efforts. This may represent a possibility to form an efficient, coherent and capable government.

Rumors have been circulating about the possibility of convening an international conference on the Middle East issue in the near future, What is your comment?

Let us be practical and realistic. There is no such thing as an international conference. All there is are two states dictating the affairs of others: the Soviet Union and the U.S.

We are now awaiting the superpower summit which may yield positive results, and when these two states agree upon an issue, all other countries follow in their footsteps. This demands careful preparations, and I think Lebanon should be granted special attention in the talks, especially as it now constitutes a terrorist threat both to the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The killing of the Soviet diplomat is an irrefutable proof of this. We hope the two superpowers will succeed in dealing with the issue of terrorism in Lebanon, since this presents an international danger to all.

Are you optimistic about the superpower talks and their repercussions in Lebanon?

The Middle East and the issue of terrorism are both on the agenda of the talks. Lebanon is directly linked to both issues, and I think it will be the focus of great attention, if not for the sake of Lebanon itself, then for the sake of the international community.

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SAUDI ARABIA

ECONOMIC GROWTH SURVEYED

Jeddah ARAB NEWS in English 26 Sep 85 pp 1, 16

[Text] JEDDAH, Sept. 25 — The structural transformation of the Saudi Arabian economy continues to proceed at a fast pace, according to the annual report of the Planning Ministry. Real gross value added by the non-oil sectors has grown each year from SR7.4 billion in 1969-70 to SR35.4 billion in 1983-84, registering an overall growth of 12.9 percent. Correspondingly the share of non-oil gross domestic product (GDP) has increased from 44 percent in 1969-70 to 72.6

At a glance

Revenue	SR5.7b 1969-70	SR368b (1982-83)
GDP	SR 17.4b 1969-70	SR 524.7b (1982-83)
Expenditure	SR6b 1969-70	SR283b (1982-83)
Oil production	3.8 mbd	4.54 mbd 1983
Credit	SR16m	SR25.9b
disbursement	1969-70	(1983-84)
Food subsidies	SR300m 1973-74	SR1.6b 1983-84
Currency in circulation	SR1.6b 1969-70	SR34.7b 1983-84
Electricity generation	418 mw 1970	14,600 mw 1984
Wheat production	130,000 tons 1969-70	1.3m tons 1983-84
Cement production	0.67m tons 1970	8.6m tons 1984
Fertilizer production	244,000 tons 1970	8.63m tons 1984
Roads	8,000 kms 1970	28,000 kms 1984
Schools	3,107 1970	14,146 1984
Hospital Beds	7,165 1970	18,913 1984

percent in 1983-84 in real terms.

The report on 'Achievements of Developments Plans 1970-1984' says revenues from oil and other sources rose each year from SR5.7 billion in 1969-70 to SR368 billion in 1982-83. However, the situation changed in 1983-84, when government revenues from both sources fell to SR191.6 billion, a decline of 22.2 percent over the previous year. This, the report adds, was due to the

drop in world oil demand which resulted in oil revenues falling by 31.1 percent in 1983-84.

At current prices, the value of goods and services rose sharply from SR17.4 billion in 1969-70 to SR524.7 billion in 1982-83, but in 1983-84 the GDP fell to SR381.6 billion on account of the sharp decline in gross value added by the oil sector. Government expenditures have been rising continuously from SR6 billion in 1969-70 to SR283 billion in 1982-83. Overall, expenditures grew at an annual rate of 36.9 percent against a corresponding growth of 33.5 percent in government revenues. It is significant that in a lean year like 1983-84, government expenditures accounted for 60.3 percent of the GDP.

In view of decrease in the world oil demand, the report said the Kingdom's oil production dropped to 6.5 million barrels a day (mbd) in 1982 and 4.5 mbd in 1983. The average annual rate of growth of oil production for the 1970-80 period was 2.9 percent, a modest rate of increase by any standard, particularly so in the light of gross additions to reserves over the same period.

In 1983, Aramco accounted for 96.4 percent of total oil production in the Kingdom.

End-year crude oil reserves in 1983 were 30 billion barrels more than the corresponding reserves of 138 billion in 1970, despite cumulative production of 38.2 billion barrels over the same period. In other words, gross additions to reserves amounted to about 70.3 billion barrels.

The installed capacity of oil refineries owned by Petromin rose more than 33 folds from 12,000 barrels a day in 1970 to 401,000 barrels in 1983.

The total production of refined products up to the middle of 1984 is estimated at 67 million barrels.

Production of petroleum products by all refineries in the Kingdom grew at an annual rate of 2.9 percent, rising from 225.3 million

barrels in 1970 to 323.8 million barrels in 1980 and declining to 258.6 million barrels in 1983. Production of refined products for the first half of 1984 is estimated at 177 million barrels.

Referring to investment credit by government-sponsored financial institutions, the report said credit disbursed by all public financial institutions recorded a steep growth from SR16 million in 1969-1970 to SR25.9 billion in 1983-1984.

Credit disbursed by all public institutions until the middle of 1984 amounts to SR183.5 billion.

On the other hand, food subsidies rose from SR300 million in 1973-1974 to SR5 billion in 1982-1983 and dropped to SR1.6 billion in 1983-1984. All in all, direct subsidies grew at an average annual rate of 54.9 percent, from SR39.7 million to SR7.9 billion over the same period.

The currency in circulation rose at an average annual rate of 29.7 percent from SR1.6 billion in 1969-1970 to SR34.7 billion in 1983-1984.

In 1984, the cost of living index estimates showed a decline of one percent over the previous year. On an average, the cost of living index grew at a yearly rate of 11.7 percent over the period under review.

Electricity sector has registered a phenomenal growth during the last 14 years. Power generation rose 22 times, increasing from 1.8 billion kilowatt-hours to nearly 40 billion kilowatt-hours. The report says the installed capacity grew at the annual rate of 32 percent from 418 megawatts (Mw) in 1970 to 14,600 Mw in 1984. Similarly, the usable capacity too grew at the same rate from 344 Mw in 1970 to over 11,800 Mw in 1984.

Wheat production grew at an annual rate of 20.4 percent increasing from 130,000 tons in 1969-70 to 1.3 million tons in 1983-84. In a bid to boost agricultural production, the government has extended both medium and short-term loans to the farmers on a large scale.

Medium-term loans rose from SR14 million in 1970-1971 to SR3.5 billion in 1983-84, an average growth of nearly 64 percent. Short-term loans rose from SR2.6 million to SR18.5 million during the same period. All in all farm loans extended by the state rose from SR16.6 million in 1970-71 to SR3.5 billion in 1983-84, corresponding to an average growth rate of 61.6 percent.

The capacity of desalination plants increased from 5.12 million U.S. gallons per day (mgd) in 1970 to 413.15 mgd in 1984, showing a rise of 81 times, corresponding to an average annual rise of 39.3 percent. The water supplied by the plants is estimated to

have risen from 4.6 mgd to 330 mgd, registering an annual growth rate of 36.2 percent.

The production of cement in 1984 rose to 8.6 million tons compared to 0.67 million tons, 14 years ago, representing an average annual growth rate of 21.2 percent.

The production of chemical fertilizers registered a steep annual average growth of 19.4 percent, rising from 244,000 tons in 1970 to 8,632,000 tons in 1984. A substantial part of local production is destined for export.

Large manufacturing industries, both private and public showed remarkable expansion. The number of licensed factories rose from 207 in 1970 to 3,252 in 1984 envisaging a total capital outlay of over SR129 billion. On the other hand, the operating factories rose from 207 to 1,609 with a capital investment of SR39 billion during the same period.

The network of paved roads expanded at an average rate of 10.2 percent yearly from 8,000 kilometers in 1970 to nearly 28,000 kilometers in 1984. By the end of 1984, nearly all towns and cities in the Kingdom were being served by dual carriage roads.

Railroad passenger traffic almost doubled, rising from 38.8 million passenger kilometers to 76 million during the period under review, representing an annual growth of 5.9 percent.

Highlighting the progress of ports in the Kingdom, the report said its overall port handling capacity rose from two million in 1970 to 49 million tons in 1984. The volume of cargo unloaded at all seaports rose from 1.8 million weight tons to 38.9 million weight tons during the same period.

Meanwhile, airports in the Kingdom handled a total of 169.4 million passengers over the 1970-1984 period.

Saudia, the national airline, witnessed a phenomenal growth, as its revenue passengers increased from 0.6 million to 11.4 million during the same period.

Referring to posts, telephone and telegraphic services, the report said incoming correspondence rose from 47.6 million pieces in 1970 to 409 million pieces in 1984 while outgoing correspondence increased from 32.4 million to 286 million pieces during the same period.

On the other hand, incoming and outgoing telegrams have grown at an average annual rate of 9.1 percent and 6.8 percent respectively. The telephone exchange line capacity has expanded from 766,000 in 1970 to 1.2 million in 1984 showing an annual growth rate of 26.2 percent.

Referring to the educational development, the report said the number of schools rose from 3,107 to 14,146, the number of teachers from 23,000 to 126,000, enrollment in all educational institutions from 547,000 to nearly two million during the period under review.

Beds in hospitals operated by the Ministry of Health grew at an annual rate of 6.3 percent, rising from 7,165 in 1970 to 18,913.

On the other hand, the number of hospital beds in all health facilities operating in the Kingdom rose threefold from 9,039 to 26,410 during the same period.

/13104

CSO: 4400/44

SAUDI ARABIA

URBAN EXPANSION FREEZE

Jeddah ARAB NEWS in English 25 Sep 85 p 3

[Text] JEDDAH, Sept. 24(SPA) — The Council of Ministers has decided to freeze all urban expansion in the Kingdom for the next two-year period. The measure, evidently intended as an austerity measure, was announced after the weekly cabinet meeting here last night chaired by King Fahd.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs was instructed to prepare within that period a master plan for urban expansion over the next 20 years in phases conforming with economic development plans.

During the period the approval of granting plots in all cities and villages will be stopped. The plot which determines the urban limit of any city is to be approved by the Council of Ministers as per the recommendation of the minister of municipal and rural affairs. The ministry is to lay down conditions to regulate the approval of the plots of each city. It is also asked to suggest plans for lands which are not within the urban limit, and to submit them along with the application of rule determining the urban limit of that city in order to be approved by the Council of Ministers.

The cabinet has decided to form a committee with the ministers of interior, justice,

finance and national economy, municipal affairs and planning, headed by the interior minister, to study the situation of unutilized lands in planned and unplanned cities and to suggest appropriate measures to develop them which should be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

The announcement about the freeze on urban expansion coincided with a statement by Planning Minister Hisham Nazer that the Saudi economy was undergoing a structural change because infrastructural development has reached its limits.

"For example, during the Fourth (1985-1989) Development Plan, the construction sector is expected to realize a negative growth rate of 2.8 percent per year," Nazer said earlier in the day at a seminar in London.

The cabinet approved the request of the chief of the Presidency of Youth Welfare for joining the Nairobi treaty for protecting the Olympic emblem which was issued on Sept. 24, 1981 as it does not contravene the Kingdom's obligations in the field of sports, Ibrahim Al-Anqari, municipal and rural affairs minister and acting information minister, said after the cabinet meeting.

/13104
CSO: 4400/45

SAUDI ARABIA

WATER PROJECTS PROGRESS

Jeddah ARAB NEWS in English 16 Sep 85 p 3

[Article by Shahid Orakzai]

[Text]

DAMMAM, Sept. 15 — Eastern Province Governor Prince Muhammad ibn Fahd yesterday signed two water supply and sewerage contracts worth SR84.5 million with two national companies. The new contracts for a water supply scheme in Qatif and a sewerage pipe line network for Al-Mubaraz district of Hofuf are part of the Eastern Province Water and Sewerage Directorate plans to provide basic amenities to the rural populace.

The jobs awarded yesterday include an SR66.89 million contract to lay down a sewer network in the newly developed Al-Mubaraz district in Ahsa which will serve a population of 35,000. The network will be spread over 2,000 hectares. According to Abdullah Muhammad Al-Babtain, director general of the Eastern Province Water and Sewerage Directorate, the project to be completed in 30 months also includes two water treatment plants. This is the second major development project to be undertaken in Al-Mubaraz district, a fast growing housing scheme in between Ahsa and Hofuf.

A second water supply pipeline network ordered for 16 small villages in Qatif oasis will cost SR17.5 million. This turnkey project, to be handed over in 18 months, involves a pipeline work measuring 12.5 kilometers. The project also includes construction of water storage facility with a capacity of 2,000 cubic meters of potable water. The water supply scheme, scheduled to be completed by early 1987, is to serve 40,000 people in the area.

/13104

CSO: 4400/45

SAUDI ARABIA

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEWED

Jeddah ARAB NEWS in English 23 Sep 85 p 19

[Article by K.S. Ramkumar]

[Text]

JEDDAH — The big leap taken by Saudi Arabia in agriculture during the past seven years has made this sector the second most productive after oil, according to latest statistical reports.

The Kingdom has achieved self-sufficiency in many agricultural products, including wheat which it is now exporting to neighboring countries. Last year, the Kingdom produced 1.3 million tons of wheat against 3,000 tons eight years ago, according to the reports.

The comprehensive agricultural development was coupled with intensive rehabilitation of nomads, many of them have turned into stable and highly productive farmers.

According to Minister of Agriculture and Water Abdul Rahman Al-Sheikh, the unlimited support of the government has resulted in overall progress in the field of agriculture, water and fisheries. The state outlines broad policies, defines targets and extends support to the public sector through incentives to promote its capabilities. The government only guides the private sector and follows up its activities without interfering in production.

The government subsidies have made it easier for farmers to adopt modern systems of agriculture instead of traditional ones. Besides, support and incentives, the state has implemented plans to develop and modernize agricultural research centers, training and guidance.

According to government reports, in the past 20 years the cultivated area in the Kingdom has been increased from 150,000 hectares (370,500 acres) to 2.3 million hectares (5.6 million acres). Incentives to private sector companies and individual farmers include free distribution of large tracts

of land, interest-free loans, free consultancy and substantial subsidies amounting to 50 percent of the cost of agricultural machinery, seeds and fertilizer. The government has also been broadening programs for the protection of plants and animals, while supplying farmers with free pesticides and poultry vaccines.

Private sector initiative has been evident in meat and poultry production.

Besides wheat, the Kingdom has also achieved self-sufficiency in poultry. Eight years ago, the production of chickens and eggs hardly met 10 percent of the local needs. In 1984 the Kingdom had not only met the domestic requirements, but also started export to its neighbors.

In 1977 dairy products did not exceed five percent of the local needs. Today, the Kingdom is exporting milk and its products to a number of sisterly countries. A similar increase has been achieved in the production of palm dates. In 1977 production was around 200,000 tons annually. Last year, it stood at 500,000 tons.

The government has given special attention to boost fishing. It had supplied fishermen with boats and other necessary equipment and helped them in the marketing process. A fishing company was established five years ago with the government contributing 40 percent of the capital. Fish production reached more than 16,000 tons last year. The government has also acted to curb the desert creep, 18 million trees have been grown in the southwestern part of the Kingdom and seven million others grown on 34,000 dunums in the northeastern parts.

The government has launched many big irrigation schemes, in keeping with international specifications. Among these is Ahsa

project in the Eastern Province which consists of 2,638-kilometer long canals, three water tanks with capacity of 38,000 cubic meters each and three water pumping stations. This is in addition to 2,000 kilometers of agricultural roads and 45 causeways for communications among villages.

To provide more water for irrigation, new projects to purify sewage water have been executed. These include one in Al-Dariya, near Riyadh, and another in Dirab. Studies are under way to implement such projects in other parts of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom has invested billions of dollars in irrigation and desert reclamation projects to attain self-sufficiency in agriculture. Two decades of hardwork toward transformation have yielded positive results, sharply reducing the volume of food imports and pushing the Kingdom closer to the goal of becoming an exporter of wheat, eggs, poultry and dairy products.

In 1975, Saudi Arabia's daily production of desalinated water was 10 million gallons per day. Now it is 500 million gallons. The increase at 5,000 percent places the Kingdom at top in the domain of desalination

Domestic Consumption and Production of Wheat

Year	Local Production	Imports	Total Consumption	Ratio of production to consumption
1978/79	17,505	828,336	845,841	2.1 %
1979/80	32,882	544,312	877,194	5.7 %
1980/81	85,435	673,652	759,087	11.3 %
1981/82	239,690	716,364	956,054	25.1 %
1982/83	674,631	283,000	957,631	70.5 %
1983/84	1,300,000 c	30,000 c	1,330,000	99.8 %

a) It only includes deliveries to the General Grain Silos Organization.

b) Central Statistics Department — International Trade Publications.

c) Preliminary estimate.

Source : General Grain Silos Organization.

The capital is being supplied with potable water from the Gulf which is 500 kilometers away, while Madinah is getting its desalinated water from the Red Sea. Plans are currently under way to supply water to Makkah, Taif and Asir region from the Red Sea. For the supply of irrigation water, the government has constructed about 180 dams, the biggest of which is Wadi Najran Dam with a storage capacity of 85 million cubic meters.

The study found that a total of SR6.4 billion was spent by the government during the seven years between 1975 and 1982. The total of the loans extended by the Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank since it was established in 1964 until 1982 amounted to SR8.9 billion benefiting more than 222,000 farmers. Because of the increase in agricultural investment and agricultural production the prices of foodstuffs came down.

"It took us 15 years of spirited researching on soil, climate and water resources," Abdullah Zaid, director general of Agricultural Development has said. "Despite all

doubts, we developed the conviction that with subsidy and protective measures a vast agricultural expansion is relevant." Preliminary studies, he said, indicated the existence of sufficient water sources and additional cultivable area to produce food products at competitive prices.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block, in 1983 criticized the wheat harvest as not economically viable. But Saudi officials said at the time that high subsidies were necessary in the agricultural sector to protect their country against possibility of an embargo on food exports by the world's major exporters of farm products.

In reality, the growth of the agricultural sector during the Third Five-Year Plan period exceeded the target of the plan. This is revealed in a study conducted by the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry. By this progress, one of the strategic objectives of the Kingdom's development plan of limiting dependence on import of food items has materialized to a great extent.

SAUDI ARABIA

REVIEW OF PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Jeddah ARAB NEWS in English 30 Sep 85 p 3

[Text] RIYADH, Sept. 29 (SPA) — An ambitious program has started to produce nearly five percent of the world demand for petrochemicals at the Kingdom's most recently founded industrial cities of Jubail and Yanbu.

At present, 19 capital-intensive plants are operational or under construction, costing SR74 billion in these bustling dynamic industrial cities.

A latest review of major programs and projects in the Kingdom conducted by the Planning Ministry shows that no scheme so colossal can be found in the annals of engineering and industry. The value added through industrial investment will account for three percent of total current GDP.

By the year 2,000 these industries will create 144,000 new jobs and will utilize \$1 billion worth of natural gas now being flared without any return to the economy.

The gas will be utilized as fuel and feedstock in the steel, aluminum, plastics and fertilizer industries.

The industrial plan calls for setting up 19 primary industries, 136 secondary industries and 100 tertiary industries, the review said.

Development of basic industries in Jubail and Yanbu is the responsibility of the General Petroleum and Mineral Organization (Petromin) and Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) while the massive task of creating the two cities is undertaken by the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu.

The population intake of the twin cities (375,000 by Jubail and 150,000 by Yanbu) will represent the first step on the way to industrial civilization.

The infrastructural work on the industrial City of Jubail was set up on a site covering 1,030 square kilometers and with a popula-

tion of more than 50,000 inhabitants. The city is ready for the establishment of basic, secondary and tertiary industries. Residential districts have been established to accommodate nearly 24,000 workers. Over 6,570 accommodation units have been built for administrators and engineers. Other infrastructural projects at Jubail include water, sewage, electricity, medical facilities, roads etc.

Work is proceeding to complete the Yanbu Industrial City, which will accommodate the basic and secondary industries. Construction of residential areas is also proceeding and is at various phases of completion.

A modern residential estate has been set up, covering an area of 80 square kilometers and accommodating over 38,000 inhabitants.

Other infrastructural projects are close to completion: storage capacity of potable water amount to 330,000 cubic meters, the water distribution network extends to 288 kms, a land fill area for a sewage plant has a capacity of 51,000 cubic meters per day, the length of sewage network installed is 221 kms. The Royal Commission has set up a desalination plant with a daily output of 54,600 cubic meters.

In addition, electric power generation capacity rose to 920 megawatt and the electricity distribution network has been laid, with a total length of 1,121 kms.

A 60-bed hospital and four dispensaries have been completed.

An airport, with a runway length of 3.2 kms, and 2,000 square meters for terminal building and facilities, has been completed.

A road network of 263 kms has also been constructed.

The following infrastructural developments have been established and are now fully operational: 30,500 telephone lines,

200 telex lines, 14 quays in the industrial port, 17 mosques, 3,940 accommodation units and administrative buildings on an area of 9,244 square meters.

The review said SABIC undertook the task of completing 12 projects since 1979. They include seven basic petrochemical projects of 5.44 million tons capacity of ethylene and its derivatives and methanol per year, one iron and steel plant of 800,000 tons capacity per year, expansion of Jeddah Steel Rolling Mill to produce 140,000 tons per year and two other projects — one for down-stream products and the other for supporting industries and one urea plant to produce 500,000 tons per year.

Total investments in these projects by 1983 amounted to SR38.6 billion and total expenses amounted to SR22.4 billion. SABIC is expected to complete other basic industrial projects by the end of 1405.

Plans are completed to construct a blending lube oil plant in Jubail, with a capacity of one million barrels of oil per year and 4,000 tons of lubricants. Petromin also set up a lube base stocks refinery in Jeddah in 1970.

Two lubricating oil export refineries, one at Yanbu with a capacity of 1.8 million barrels per year and the other at Jubail with a capacity of 4.3 million barrels per day are also planned.

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CSO: 4400/44

SAUDI ARABIA

DEVELOPMENT OF TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 7-13 Oct 85 pp 42-44, 47

[Text] The process of covering the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a network of advanced communications systems, in particular, telephone communications, has reached an advanced stage. The telephone network includes all the Kingdom's cities and middle-rank towns and is rapidly being extended to cover rural areas as well. In addition, it is now possible to dial direct from Saudi Arabia to 154 foreign countries.

In this interview, Fuad Abu-Mansour, a senior official of the Saudi Post and Communications Ministry's Maintenance Department, replies to questions on the development of the Saudi telephone system and discusses some of the problems it faces.

Why has the publication of the new telephone directory been delayed? When it finally appears, will it have a special section devoted exclusively to commercial firms, in which the entries are classified according to the type of business engaged in?

There are several reasons for the delay. The first is the problem of keeping track of the new telephone lines which have been installed since the publication of the last directory.

Then there is the problem of ensuring the comprehensiveness of the special commercial section which will indeed form part of the new directory. We have sent out a short questionnaire to every commercial enterprise of which we have a record, asking for certain items of information, including of course address and telephone number(s) and whether or not they would like to place a special advertisement in the directory in addition to having their name listed. Some firms have not yet returned the questionnaire, and we have delayed publication of the directory until we get these in, or as many of them as possible.

In addition, there are technical problems involved in the format — layout, type-face, and so on — and in the printing process, which are still being ironed out, the sort of thing one has in any big publishing operation and which I need not go into.

There is one number — 905 — which a subscriber may dial for information, and in the absence of a reliable telephone directory this number is besieged with calls from people wanting information. Unfortunately not all the information they get is accurate. How do you see the matter?

The heavy pressure 905 is under does not affect the accuracy of the information it provides, because its service is totally computerized.

Any incorrect information which may be given by No. 905 is due rather to carelessness on the part of subscribers who, for example, change addresses without notifying the telephone department that they have done so, or by the illegal use by someone of a telephone to which he is not entitled.

The same thing, I might add, is often the cause of incorrect bills which are issued to subscribers. The incorrectness is due to the subscriber himself having failed to fulfill some formality he should have carried out, or to his having failed to give the telephone department some information it should have.

We strongly urge citizens to inform the Maintenance Department of the ministry of any change which should be made in the statements they receive concerning their telephones, both to avoid trouble for themselves and to enable the ministry to keep its records accurate. A committee has been formed of representatives of the various ministry departments concerned to look into this problem of incorrect statements and to see what solutions might be arrived at. This matter is especially serious insofar as it touches the accuracy of the new telephone directory.

Has anything been done to increase the proportion of Saudis employed in the ministry's labor force?

The ratio of Saudis to non-Saudi workers in the ministry which was once as low as 37 percent, has now reached 75 percent out of a total work force of 160,000. This increased percentage is due to greatly increased training of Saudis in all fields and on all levels, both at home and abroad. About one and a quarter million man-hours are spent annually in training, and it is hoped the proportion of Saudis working for the ministry will reach 80 percent within two years.

What about the number of telephone calls made within Saudi Arabia and from Saudi Arabia to foreign countries?

Calls dialed from one Saudi telephone to another increased last year by 21 percent, while calls dialed from Saudi telephones to foreign destinations increased by 15.7 percent. It is now possible to dial directly from Saudi Arabia to 154 foreign countries.

The most important additions made last year were the installation of 60 international circuits between Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and of 150 circuits between the Kingdom and North Yemen.

In the current year there are plans to add 3,300

international circuits to improve service to France, Germany, the United States, Japan, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan, Korea and the Philippines.

It is also planned to set up a new communication station at Jeddah to increase communications via satellites, in particular, via Arabsat, which was launched with the specific purpose of improving telephonic and other communications among the Arab states. Other stations are also envisaged which will facilitate the process of communicating with ships at sea.

What is the total number of telephones now working in the Kingdom?

The number of functioning telephones in the Kingdom reached 927, 803 last year, an increase of some 53,402 over the previous year. The number of mobile telephones, too, increased, by 42.5 percent, and it is expected that the total number of telephone links will reach 1,012,870 next year, an

increase of 9.1 percent. In addition, the number of call-boxes is expected to increase this year from 6,607 to 6,850.

Much has been said about making arrangements for paying bills through banks. What has been done so far to bring this about?

The Ministry of Posts and Communications is always on the lookout for ways of improving the services it offers to the public. In regard to making provision for the payment of bills through banks, we must bear in mind that there are technical as well as administrative details that must be worked out, particularly in regard to the drawing up of bills and their distribution, as well as the process of payment as such. These details are still being sorted out, but the Ministry of Finance has given its consent and I am able to say that subscribers will soon be able to pay all their bills through banks, something they will no doubt welcome, since banking facilities are readily available in most regions of the Kingdom.

How do you explain the fact that subscribers are so often billed for telephone calls they haven't made?

The nub of this problem lies in the fact that some telephone subscribers change their addresses or leave the country entirely without informing the telephone department that they have done so. When they move from one residence to another, they should notify the ministry of the fact, and that consequently they no longer have the phone for which they were formerly subscribed.

There is a regular procedure for such notification, which is carried out by filling in documents issued by the Ministry of Public Works, which must be signed by the new owner of the phone and by the local authorities involved. While these formalities are being carried out, the original subscriber continues to be responsible, naturally, for any calls made on the phone registered in his name.

In some cases, believe it or not, a telephone has been known to change hands, so to speak, two or three times without the ministry authorities ever being notified that there has been any change at all. It is this sort of negligence that is at the root of most of the faulty billing.

It has been said that a special study is being made with a view to changing the wave-lengths by which wireless phone calls are transmitted. Is this true?

No such changes are likely to occur, since the wave-lengths used for this purpose are assigned to Saudi Arabia by international agreement. Any changes that are made are only done so in very unusual cases.

I should note here that measures are in hand to standardize the systems of radio waves, frequency bands and so on which are now in use in the Gulf states. This is in line with other measures of standardization now going on among the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. ●

/13104

CSO: 4400/43

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

DAM COMPLETED--BAHA (Saudi Arabia)--A \$32.81 million dam with a capacity of 1.5 million cubic metres has been built in Baha region, bringing the number of irrigation facilities in the area to 21. The new dam in Bida valley, in the southern part of the kingdom, is 150 metres long and 24 metres high. Ali Al Rajeh, director of the region's water and agriculture department said. Work is in progress on another dam in Ageed valley with a capacity of 22.5 million cubic metres at a cost of \$91.12 million. It will be 176 metres long and 60 metres high. Mr Rajeh said two more dams were under construction in Bani Kabeer and Methas in the Al-Mandaq region, at a cost of \$109.35 million. [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 17 Oct 85 p 13] /6539

CSO: 4400/27

SYRIA

STATISTICAL YEARBOOK PUBLISHED

PM101024 [Editorial Report] Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 September 1985 publishes on page 3 a 1,200-word report on the recent publication of the statistical annual for 1985 by the Syrian Central Statistical Office. The report says that the book was published early this year in order to "enable officials, planners, and researchers to benefit from its up-to-date figures, shown to be consistent with and corresponding to the various indices of the 1986-1990 sixth plan, whose preparation has been based on the results, discussions, and evaluations of the Fifth 5-Year Plan and the preparation of the Sixth 5-Year Plan."

In addition to statistical data, the 560-page book, published in both Arabic and English, reportedly contains "numerous demographic indices showing the results of specialized demographic censuses and researches," and a series of indices of nationally calculated current and fixed prices for 1980 base year for the Seventh 5-Year Plan."

The statistical report contains data and indices covering 16 headings, which are: natural environment, inhabitants, demographic indices, manpower, work force, agriculture, industry, building and construction, transport and communications, foreign trade, prices and internal trade, education and higher education, health, judiciary, tourism, culture and information, associations and trade unions, finance and national calculations.

The paper publishes highlights of demographic data, including the rate of population growth, urbanization, and population distribution.

/12913
CSO: 4400/35

SYRIA

BRIEFS

IRRIGATION PROJECT PREPARATIONS--Damascus (ST)--In the governorate of Deir Ez Zour, preparations are underway to carry out Al-Baqar Valley project which will protect the city against floods and provide cattle with water, the Assistant Irrigation Minister's Deputy, Mr. Barakat Hadid has declared. He added that studies on al [word indistinct] dam project are going on. The dam will store 30 million cubic meters of water and irrigate vast areas of land which will be used for grazing, he said. In the governorate of Quneitra, a number of dams are being built, the most important of which is the Ghadir al-Bustan dam which will store 12 million cubic meters of water and irrigate about 1,500 hectares of land. Al-Sajour Dam will store 35 million cubic meters of water which will irrigate 4,000 hectares of land. The al-Breqa Dam will store 1.1 million cubic meters and irrigate 150 hectares of land, Mr. Hadid concluded. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 28 Aug 85 p 2] /9274

SIN LAKE WATER PROJECT--Tartous, (SANA)--All construction works needed for the Sin Lake water supply project were recently completed. The project is planned to provide potable water for Tartous and Banias towns, and for coastal villages in the governorate. The LS-100 million-cost project is due to be inaugurated on November 16, 1985, the 15th anniversary of the Correctionist Movement launched by President Hafez Assad. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 10 Sep 85 p 3] /9274

SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION--Aleppo, (SANA)--The total quantities of sugar beet which have been delivered to the sugar factory at Maskana amounted to 135,000 tonnes since the beginning of the current year's harvest. This was declared here yesterday by an official source of the factory, who added that marketing operations continue throughout the governorate and that production is expected to reach 165,000 tonnes by the end of the season. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 11 Sep 85 p 3] /9274

AL-RAQQA IRRIGATION PROJECTS--Raqa, (SNA)--The total cost of irrigation projects being executed by the General Company of Irrigation Constructions in al-Balikh basin amounts to LS370 million. This was declared here yesterday by the General Director of the governorate Land Reclamation Establishment who added that over LS 180 million have been spent on the setting up of the main canal in the basin, which has been completed. Meanwhile, the total cost of construction projects being executed by the Construction Company in Raqa

amounts to more than LS 26 million. Among these projects are the setting up of 12 housing units which include 192 flats, the construction of the Martyr Sana' Mheidli supermarket, the building of stores and other services projects. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 25 Sep 85 p 3] /9274

CSO: 4400/31

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ABU DHABI DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SURVEYED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 30 Sep 85 p 3

[Article by Ahmed Hassan: "Provisional Budget Aids Projects"]

[Text]

DEVELOPMENT projects in the emirate of Abu Dhabi are continuing in accordance with the provisional budget allocated to each government department. The provisional budget earmarked each month is one twelfth of the budget allocated last year.

Despite the recessionary trends affecting the economy, development projects of several departments have continued. For instance the Department of Public Works and Housing in the emirate is known to have utilised 26 per cent of its allotted budget in the first quarter of this year.

The total budget earmarked for the department this year was Dh1.13 billion. Same amount was allocated to the department last year.

According to a report prepared by the Abu Dhabi Planning Department, the Public Works Department has already spent nearly Dh290 million in the first quarter of this year. Most of the projects being managed by the department are now in the Western Region of the emirate. However, in the Eastern region, the department is supervising the construction of the gigantic and prestigious Al Ain International Airport project.

Other development projects involving the construction of new schools have not started on schedule. The government has however, constructed new class rooms in the school premises. In the Western Region, the Public Works Department has continued to construct low cost housing in and around Madinat Zayed and in the Liwa area.

The Department of Water and Electricity is known to have spent about 17 per cent of the budget earmarked in the first quarter of this year. The depart-

ment has also been involved in major expansion work.

The department is also developing a power station, seven miles out of Madinat Zayed. It is expected that this new power plant would cover large areas of Liwa also.

The total budget allocated to the department for the current year is Dh1.16 billion. Out of this amount, the department has spent nearly Dh202 million in the first quarter of 1985.

The Abu Dhabi Municipality and the Department of Town Planning, which are the largest recipients of the annual budget are known to have spent 22 per cent of their budget allocations in the first quarter of the year.

The annual budget provision for these two departments is to the tune of Dh1.5 billion. Out of this the department is known to have spent Dh329.1 million.

The major project besides the widening of roads, is the new building of the Abu Dhabi Municipality and Town Planning itself. The building which is now nearing completion is estimated to have cost more than Dh190 million.

The road extensions have been done in several phases. Another major project is the vehicle underpass on the Old Airport Road.

The underpass is likely to be opened to traffic in a few months time. The underpass, the largest in the region is also expected to end the severe congestion on the Old Airport Road and mainly at the roundabout that lies on the intersection of the Airport Road and the Shaikh Zayed the Second Street.

With the new bus terminal being constructed on the New Airport Road, the area near the two markets will have less traffic. This is expected to facilitate the movement of men and material around the market area.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

EDITORIAL ON ISLAMIC BANKING

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 27 Oct 85 p 6

[Text]

THE third Islamic banking conference which concluded in Dubai on Friday provided an opportunity for an in-depth discussion of many of the hurdles confronting the Islamic banking system. Some of these have been well defined. For instance, there is a lack of outlets for investment funds, with over \$10 billion with the 40 or so Islamic banks and institutions in the world. Then there has been little movement of capital between the banks which has retarded greater financial cooperation among Muslim countries. Lack of trained cadres has also been a constant drawback. These problems were dealt with at the Dubai conference which made a number of recommendations. It called for the creation of a market for Islamic capital and the holding of a conference on investment in Islamic states to define the areas and conditions of investment with the objective of achieving self-reliance by Muslim countries. It suggested the setting up of a system whereby funds can be exchanged between Islamic banks and thus increase investment in development projects in the Muslim world. The conference also asked for the formation of a higher institute in Islamic economic studies to train a new generation of Islamic bankers and urged coordination with universities in the Muslim countries.

It has been a refreshing feature of Islamic banking since the idea began to be actively implemented a decade or so ago that those concerned have always been fully conscious of institutional shortcomings and aware of the limitations imposed by the Western-dominated international monetary order. There has been no proselytising; rather, the reality of competing with another, much-organised and powerful system has been realised from the start. It is, therefore, a matter of even greater praise that Islamic banking has been able to gain acceptance in a wide area of the globe. Wherever Islamic banks function, they have been able to report growing depositor confidence, which really must be considered the touchstone of the success of any bank, and prove their viability. The profits made by some of the Islamic banks recently — Dh49 million by the Dubai Islamic Bank in 1984, QR23.07 million by the Qatar Islamic Bank — bear ample testimony to this. As the chairman of the International Association of Islamic Banks, Prince Mohammed Al-Faisal Al Saud, has said, Islamic banking started as an idea and has since developed into an economic system. It has proved the validity of interest-free banking and also that it is possible, given proper encouragement, for Islamic banks to compete with the other banks. In Pakistan, which has wholly switched

over to Islamic banking, it has also been established that it is possible even for other banks to operate within the Islamic system with a few adjustments.

In Pakistan, however, it has been found that one of the biggest difficulties is trying to adjust moral principles with normal business practices which are characterised by a lack of moral considerations. The country's economic survey for 1984-85 devotes a whole chapter to Islamic banking and, inter alia, points out that the 'dishonest practices which exist in the business community' and the lack of any record-maintenance in many sectors of the economy constitute a formidable obstacle. The survey also regrets the absence of a standard definition of profit and loss and the inexperience and inability of the banks to handle project financing on the basis of proper appraisal of each project. It also pinpoints the need for some basic information requirements that are not readily available.

The experience of Pakistan is well worth evaluating by all Muslim countries which are implementing Islamic banking practices. It is also necessary that more attention should be paid to the social content of Islamic banking. The system should be manifestly seen to be setting new standards of social and economic justice and Islamic banks investing in programmes that are designed to help the common people. In this connection, it should be noted that the Governor of the UAE Central Bank, Mr Abdul Malik Al Hamar, said at the Dubai conference that the country would study projects that would absorb the maximum amount of labour with the aim of providing job opportunities and it is to such projects that efforts to divert Islamic investment would be made. This is the direction in which all Islamic bankers should be looking more carefully.

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CSO: 4400/39

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

EDITORIAL SEES NEED FOR AUSTERITY, LONG-TERM PLANNING

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 29 Oct 85 p 6

[Text] THE policy of austerity that has characterised economic planning in the UAE over the past few years is to continue. This is the clearest signal to emerge from this year's draft budget proposals, which were formally announced in Abu Dhabi yesterday after being approved by the federal cabinet. The budget announcement has come almost at the fag-end of the year, but a number of indicators had already been published, and all had pointed to a careful husbanding of resources. Accordingly, the budget, placed at Dh16.63 billion, is just under one billion dirhams less than that for 1984, conforming to the pattern of reduced spending in force since 1982, when the country had its first deficit budget. With revenues placed at Dh12.99 billion, the projected deficit is Dh3.65 billion, but this would almost certainly be reduced when revised estimates are drawn up. It will be recalled that in 1984, the deficit estimated was Dh4.3 billion, but it was brought down to Dh2.8 billion (or just about the deficit for 1983). There is no reason not to believe that this year's gap between income and expenditure will also not be confined to the same level.

Bit by bit, progress is being made towards balancing our books on the basis of a realistic cost-cutting exercise designed to meet the difficulties still besetting Gulf economies. The Central Bank has just pointed out that there is no alternative to maintaining a conservative spending policy. In its bulletin for 1984, the bank refers to how oil revenues fell 9.4 per cent in 1984 and federal revenues by 10.4 per cent and says: "There is no doubt that the pursuit of a conservative financial policy has become an absolute necessity in view of the likelihood of negative effects (of lower oil revenues) now and in the future on the state's budget." It goes to the credit of the country's economic planners that they have been courageously grappling with this problem, and trying to ensure that while expenditure is curtailed, it does not hold up vital development projects. Indeed, the outlook improved a bit this year, making it possible for progress to be made on some of the projects (the Dhafra air base project, among others) held over from 1984. Control on spending was also reflected in the balance of payments figures, which reportedly had a larger current account surplus than last year. Allocations for separate ministries for this year have not been given, but if past practices are any guide, spending in the social sector should have remained steady: in the health sector, the handsome amounts recovered through the registration card scheme should have helped to reduce somewhat the burden on the national exche-

quer. In any case, it is never a wise policy to become so obsessed with income shortfalls as to stop all investment in the future, and our planners have not so far shown any inclination to fall prey to such short-sighted parsimony. It is significant that federal spending had risen by eight per cent in the first quarter of this year compared to 1984.

What has been lacking perhaps is greater emphasis on long-term planning and coordination among departments and the various emirates. A joint economic committee of government ministers and Federal National Council members was set up some time ago to discuss precisely such issues. It had come out strongly in favour of constant economic monitoring and a more rational sharing out of federal budget expenditures. Its recommendations should be seriously considered by the government and implemented. Long-term planning would also mean that the budget would be used more and more as a tool to control economic trends rather than merely be a set of figures, and better coordination might eliminate some of the causes that lead every year to delays in framing and announcing the budget. With the economy now stabilising, there is even more reason to look forward to greater attention to planning and management, which might then make controlled expansion of the economy possible.

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CSO: 4400/39

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

TRADE SURPLUS IMPROVES

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 26 Oct 85 p 17

[Article: "Condensates Cushion Blow On The Oil Front: '22.6 Percent Jump In Trade Surplus'"]

[Text]

THE UAE's trade surplus improved further last year. The surplus was Dh32 billion against 1983's Dh26.1 billion, registering an increase of 22.6 per cent.

According to a report released by the Central Bank on the foreign trade, exports and re-exports increased by Dh2.5 billion from Dh56.5 billion to Dh59 billion in 1984.

Oil exports totalled about Dh43 billion which was higher than the 1983 sales, despite a production cut—to the Opec quota of 950,000 barrels a day.

The increase in the value of oil exports is attributed to the increase in the export of condensates which falls outside the Opec's quota.

The value of the gas exports reached Dh5.5 billion, up by Dh0.5 billion from 1983.

Export and re-exports of other goods reached Dh10.5 billion in 1984, which was an increase of 10.5 per cent over 1983.

The import bill declined by 11.2 per cent to Dh27 billion from Dh30.4 billion in 1983, which was partly attributed to the increase in the value of the dirham against the major currencies.

It was also due to the drop in the local demand of several commodities and a decline in the re-export trade.

The net of the private services, income and transfers from overseas reached Dh5 billion in 1984 from Dh5.5 billion in 1983.

The volume of the products and official assistance offered to other countries also reduced to Dh0.8 billion in 1984 as against Dh1.3 billion in 1983.

As a result of that the current balance of accounts realised a surplus of Dh26.2 billion in 1984 as against Dh35.8 billion in 1980.

The assessment of the balance of payments points out to a surplus Dh6.3 billion as against Dh5.6 billion in 1983.

The influx of the private and government capital to outside rose from Dh13.8 billion in 1983 to 19.9 billion in 1984.

The value of the non-oil exports reached Dh2.5 billion in 1984 as against Dh1.2 billion in 1983.

Lubricants and other fuel materials constituted 70 per cent of the non-oil exports in 1984 compared with 50 per cent before that, due to the increase of Adnoc's exports of the oil products which rose by 220 per cent in the first half of 1984 as compared with the same period of 1983.

The value of the manufactured goods export rose in the first half of 1984 by 83 per cent compared with the same period of 1983 due to the increase of the aluminium exports from Dubai which reached over Dh400 million.

The value of the re-exported goods reached Dh2.5 billion in 1984. This value rose in Abu Dhabi from Dh420 million to Dh484 million and dropped in Dubai from Dh2.8 billion to Dh2 billion as Dubai declined to import some amounts of some precious metals in 1984 because of price fluctuations.

The imports registered 20 per cent drop in the first half of 1984 as compared with the same period of 1983 i.e. Dh13 billion against Dh16.2 billion.

The transit trade dropped by 22 per cent in the first half of 1984 as compared with the same period of 1983.

The figures also show a drop in the net imports by 17 per cent in 1984 as compared with 1983 while the population rose by three per cent which led to a drop in the per capita imports by 19.8 per cent in the same period as the net imports reached Dh20.2 billion and the per capita imports reached Dh16,400.

In all 73.3 per cent of the imported goods came from West Europe and some industrial countries, 7.3 per cent from the Arab countries, 2.4 per cent from the Eastern countries and China, Asian countries 14.3 per cent and other countries 2.7 per cent.—Wam

BANGLADESH

PAPER REPORTS ERSHAD JIDDA PRESS CONFERENCE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] President H.M. Ershad today said that the Islamic Peace Committee (IPC) took a new pledge to continue its efforts to end the Iran, Iraq fratricidal war, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Royal Conference Palace here this afternoon the President said that the IPC also gave a fresh mandate to its Chairman, President Dr. Dawada Jawara of Gambia, to continue the peace efforts and utilise every available ways and means to contact both parties.

Replying to a question he said that the proposals of OIC and the members of IPC were discussed in detail in the 8th session of IPC which concluded Saturday. On the basis of these proposals the IPC chairman will make contact with the warring parties and try to convince them to bring to table for mutual consultation.

Asked to comment on the problems between Bangladesh and India President Ershad said those were both 'psychological and physical'. But he added, 'the mist is clearing gradually and we are in a much better state today than ever before.'

He told a questioner that Bangladesh does not accept the Indian proposition to erect barbed wire fencing along the border. There is no reason for the Bangladeshis to leave their homes and cross over to Assam where the conditions are not better than those in their own country, he said.

He described the Assam problem as an internal problem of India and categorically denied the presence of any Bangladeshi national in that Indian state.

President Ershad recalled the late Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi had announced that there were no Bangladeshi nationals in Assam.

Fahad's Visit

Replying to another question the President said the coming visit of King Fahad to Bangladesh would be an epoch making event, opening a new chapter in the brotherly relations between the two countries.

The Bangladesh people are eagerly looking forward to welcome King Fahad, he added.

Referring to the proposed visit of Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sultan to Bangladesh in the second week of December during which the date for King Fahad's visit would be fixed, President Ershad said it would be the first visit of a Saudi Arabian leader to Bangladesh.

Repatriation

On the problems of repatriation of Pakistani nationals from Bangladesh President Ershad said Pakistan President Gen. Ziaul Huq had appreciated the concern of Bangladesh in this regard. The Rabat Al-Alam Al-Islam, has come up to help repatriation, he pointed out.

Replying to a question on joint venture fishing between Bangladesh and Thai entrepreneurs President Ershad said since this was not working well his Government has asked to bring those companies under Bangladeshi ownership by the end of this year.

Bangladesh will not do anything which will go against the interest of Islamic Ummah, the President said when asked to comment on the proposed establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Sri Lanka.

Answering a question on domestic problems President Ershad said his Government was able to overcome the damages caused by the recent cyclone and tidal wave with the help of friendly countries, particularly King Fahad of Saudi Arabia.

He told a questioner that as promised earlier Martial Law would be lifted as soon as the elected Parliament sits. The people have given him mandate to remain President till the elections are held, he said.

President Ershad later, performed Umrah and offered Maghreb prayer at the Holy Kaaba in Makkah this evening.

UAE

WAM adds from Abu Dhabi, President Ershad is due here tomorrow on a short visit to the UAE and will have talks with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan.

President Ershad, who will be stopping over here on his way back from Jeddah where he attended the 8th Islamic Peace Committee meetings, will exchange views with Sheikh Zayed on the situation in the region, current developments in the Middle East, issues of mutual interest and promotion of cooperation between the two countries.

President Ershad will also inform Sheikh Zayed about the outcome of the Jeddah meetings and the committees efforts to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

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CSO: 4600/1044

BANGLADESH

PAPER REPORTS ERSHAD REMARKS ON RETURN FROM MIDEAST

Indoor Politics, Elections

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] President H. M. Ershad announced on Tuesday the Government decision to withdraw restrictions on indoor politics from October first. He also announced the likelihood of national elections in March or April next year.

President Ershad did not specify a date for the commencement of open politics but linked it to the holding of Presidential and Parliamentary elections. Political activities were banned on March 1, 1985.

The President returned to the capital on Monday evening after attending the eighth meeting of the Islamic Peace Committee. He spoke with newsmen at Bangobhavan on Tuesday.

President Ershad completely ruled out the possibility of holding elections before the SARC Summit which will be held in Dhaka in the first week of December. "We should not do anything that would jeopardise the SARC Summit", he said.

He said a firm date for holding presidential and parliamentary elections would be made after the SARC Summit.

President Ershad repeated his earlier assertion that there are no Bangladeshi citizens in Assam, adding that it was an internal affair of India. The President said he anticipated the redressal of some bilateral problems with India within the coming two months. He said he was also confident that the Ganges water dispute with India would be solved before the SARC Summit.

He said he was eagerly looking forward to the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia. The visit of the Saudi Minister, who wields enormous influence in his country's domestic politics, is likely to accelerate Saudi assistance to Bangladesh.

President Ershad said the date of the visit of Saudi King Fahd to Dhaka would be fixed during the Saudi Deputy Prime Minister's coming trip to Dhaka.

2 December 1985

BSS adds: speaking about law and order situation, the President said it was the responsibility of every member of the society to help curb crimes including persecution of women which he said, was due to degeneration of values in the society.

He called for constructive criticism and asked the Press to cooperate with the Government in curbing the social ills.

President Ershad called upon the national press to project the truth and stick to the objective reporting. In doing so, the news papers should also see to it that any alarming situation was not created by their reports, he added. "Write the truth, criticise the Government constructively and not for the politic sake alone", he said.

President Ershad referred to the steps taken by the Government to stop social abuses and said his Government had started giving exemplary punishment like death sentence and life imprisonment to such offenders.

Stressing on maintenance of political stability for progress, he said in a problem ridden country like Bangladesh politics should have a positive tone to complement development efforts and continuation of smooth political process.

Iran, Iraq Conflict

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] President Ershad said that Islamic Peace Committee's failure to end the five-year old conflict between Iran and Iraq was due to the absence of a "positive and unconditional response" from Iran.

President Ershad, who was talking to newsmen at Bangobha van on Tuesday on the outcome of the eighth IPC meeting held in Jeddah, said Dawda Jawara, the IPC Chairman, has again been entrusted with the responsibility of establishing contact with both Iraq and Iran before the ninth meeting of the IPC is convened.

President Ershad feels that the Iraq-Iran war was not only harming the two warring nations but was severely affecting the unity of the Islamic Ummah. He was pained to note that the Muslim World was divided on the issue.

The President said fresh proposals were placed before the IPC meeting in Jeddah but declined to divulge the contents of the proposals. Asked why Iran was not responding to IPC overtures, President Ershad said "Tehran had some misgivings about the IPC. Iran, President Ershad said feel that IPC is biased toward Iraq. President Ershad however, said Iran's misgivings about the IPC was unfounded.

He said the IPC would make last ditch effort at disengaging the two warring nations and to work out a peace formula to end the conflict.

President Ershad also spoke on his short visit to UAE and said that he had discussed the prospects of the joint investment committee with UAE President Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nayhan. The UAE President has assured President Ershad that some positive action regarding the joint investment committee would be taken soon for expansion of joint ventures in Bangladesh.

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CSO: 4600/1045

BANGLADESH

FRONT ISSUES PRESS RELEASE ON 'INDOOR POLITICS'

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Oct 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The National Front on Monday night said the beginning of 'indoor politics' from today is the first step towards open politics for transition towards democracy, reports BSS.

Describing the occasion as auspicious, the Front hoped that the new phase would lead the country to peaceful transfer of power to the elected representatives within the shortest possible time.

The Front, in a Press release said that constructive and congenial atmosphere would hasten the process of free and open political activities.

The Press release was signed by Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain and Mr Anwar Zahid, on behalf of the Central Steering Committee of National Front.

The Press release said at the time of announcement of the National Front on August 16 it was mentioned that the most important national responsibility at the moment was the achievement of political stability through the establishment of people's democratic rights. The first phase for achieving political stability was transition to constitutional rule from Martial Law through holding national elections, it added.

It further said that the opportunities for conducting political activities were indispensable for holding free and fair elections. In the declaration of the Front it was stressed that all restrictions to conduct political activities should be removed in phases to restore normal condition with a view to creating congenial atmosphere for holding elections within the shortest possible time, it said.

The Press release said that indoor politics was being allowed as the first step towards open politics.

It said that the National Front believed in [word indistinct] national unity to help bringing about political stability in the country.

The Press release said that it was through political stability that the nation could preserve and protect national independence and sovereignty and

strengthen the institutional structure of democratic rights and democracy and open up the path of the development of national economy.

The Jatiya Front hoped that the happy beginning of the new phase, which starts from today with an ultimate objective to achieve democracy and constitutional rule would lead the country to the peaceful transfer of power to the elected representatives with the full support and unity of concerned quarters and the people within a shortest possible time.

The Front also hoped that the constructive and congenial atmosphere would hasten the process of free and open political activities.

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CSO: 4600/1054

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD ADDRESSES PUBLIC MEETINGS 29 SEPTEMBER

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

BASURHAT (Noakhali), Sept. 28 :—President Hussain Muhammad Ershad today stressed on creating greater national understanding on basic national issues to supplement the development thrust initiated by the government through reforms and changes brought by it in socio-economic fronts, reports BSS.

The President was addressing two huge public meeting here and at Ramgani in Lakshmipur district. The meeting was also addressed by Communications Minister Maudud Ahmed and State Minister for Railways Lt. Col. (Retd) Jafar Imam. The ZMLA, Zone 'D' Major General Abdus Salam was present.

He said that a national consensus was necessary for continued national policies in fields like economy, industrial policy land policy and over-all development strategy. "We can not afford to changing over our policies in these fields time and again, rather whatever be the changes in the government, the national march forward should be unabated towards a fixed goal of attaining progress and prosperity of the people," he observed.

The President said that the whole population waged the Liberation War not for political independence alone but to end the colonial vestiges of exploitation, oppression and economic disparity between man and man and region and region "But that aspirations still remain dream to lakhs of teeming millions and this amounts to dishonouring

the martyrs who sacrificed their life for our future."

President Ershad said that emancipation of the people from the curses of exploitation and oppression, removing disparity and above all sustenance of national development following a national policy was the only way for translating the dreams of the martyrs. To achieve that objective, the country need a politics to support development and pursuance of unaltered national policies on various socio-economic arenas.

He said that his government during the last three and a half years had given a sense of direction to the nation for uninterrupted development specially of the rural areas where bulk of the population live in. In this context, he referred to the administrative reorganization, land reforms, Drug Policy judicial reforms and new economic policy to revamp private sector and said that after long years of 'confusion' in socio-economic fields due to past plunders, the country had now been set on a track to lead to the path of progress and prosperity.

The President said that the political philosophy inherited from colonial legacy which was always negative and destructive had proved not to be helpful for development. Such politics with lofty assurance and serving party interest had contributed nothing towards development pursuit, but only drove a wedge in the people to the detriment of the commonman.

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CSO: 4600/1053

BANGLADESH

PAPERS REPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN WORKERS PARTY

Report on Third Congress

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 13 Sep 85 p 3

[Text] The Bangladesh Workers Party under the leadership of Rashed Khan Menon held its third congress at Gazipur from September 6 to 8. The congress elected Mr. Menon as general secretary of the party. Besides a 7-member polit bureau, a 16-member central committee and 10 central organisers were also elected.

The members of the politbureau are: Rashed Khan Menon, Haider Akbar-Khan Rono, Nurul Anwar, Habibur Rahman, Kazi Waheduzzaman, Abdus Salam and Mozammel Hossain.

The congress held that the prime task of democratic struggle at the moment was to re-organise mass movement with a view to establishing democracy.

The congress decided to continue efforts towards maintaining understanding between the 15-party alliance and the 7-party combine.

The congress stressed the need for uniting the divided Communist Parties and groups and also of establishing effective understanding with other Left parties.

The congress blamed the United States for provoking nuclear war and advocated strengthening of peace movement in the country.

Report on Central Committee Meeting

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 Oct 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh Workers Party has called for reorganising and intensifying mass movement with the definite objective of as envisaged in the five-point demand, holding election to a sovereign parliament under the supervision of a neutral nonpartisan government after complete withdrawal of martial law and handing over of power to the elected representatives of the people.

The call was made in political resolution adopted at the three-day meeting of the central committee of the party that ended yesterday.

The meeting emphatically said "the movement should aim at putting an end to martial law and not democratisation of martial law." The movement based on the five-point should be geared up and carried forward steadily keeping clearly in view its main objective, it said.

The resolution further said, after holding the referendum and upazila elections keeping the people deprived of their political rights, the national front was now formed as a "buffer" between the people and the government. This would only negate the hopes and aspirations of the toiling masses for an end to exploitation, it said.

The meeting stressed the need for upholding the unity of the 15-Party Alliance, the understanding between the 15 Party and the seven party alliances and intensifying their simultaneous movement.

The meeting also called for making the 15 party programme on October 15 in demand for fair price of jute a success.

The meeting hears the report placed by party Secretary General Mr Rashed Khan Menon on political, organizational and other issues and adopted it.

Merger With Majdoor

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 6 Oct 85 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh Workers' Party (Menon) and Bangladesher Majdoor Party (basher) have decided to go for fusion into a single party.

Addressing a joint press conference yesterday the General Secretaries of the two parties' Rashed Khan Menon and Abul Basher respectively narrated the basis of unification.

The press conference held at the central office of the Workers' Party was told that the decision of merger would be materialised through a joint congress to be held on October 18.

The leaders described the merger as a part of their move to unite all left forces under a single banner.

A joint statement read out by Abul Basher said that they considered both Soviet Union and China as socialist countries.

They said that they were fighting for the end of martial law and establishment of a sovereign parliament through a free and fair election to be held under the supervision of a caretaker government on the basis of the five-point demand. The press conference condoled the death of the former President Justice Abdus Sattar.

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CSO: 4600/1059

BANGLADESH

PAPERS REPORT ON ERSHAD VISIT TO TURKEY

Speeches at Ankara Banquet

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Oct 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

ANKARA, Oct 3, (BSS) :- President Kenan Evren of Turkey last night expressed the hope that the current visit of President Ershad to his country would be a concrete step forward for cementing further the already existing friendly ties and cooperation between two countries.

Speaking at the banquet he hosted in honour of the Bangladesh President and Begum Raushan Ershad here at the Chankaya presidential palace President Evren said the two nations share a common heritage of culture and moral values which are deep rooted in history.

He said Turkey have been keenly following the developments in different fields in Bangladesh. "We are very pleased to see that a genuine atmosphere of peace and stability is established in your country under your wise leadership" he said.

President Evren highly commended the efforts of the Bangladesh Government under the leadership of President Ershad to promote economic and social standard of its people.

The Turkish President referred to the efforts of Bangladesh for giving the South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) a concrete shape and said he believed that with the positive and constructive role of Bangladesh this organisation would help promotion of a new regional understanding and cooperation in South Asia.

Turning to the protracted fratricidal war between Iran and the Palestinian brethren and their representative, the PLO, and also for their inalienable rights to their homeland.

"The state of aggression by Israel not only continues unabated but is seen to escalate," he said.

The most dastardly act of aggression Israel manifested once again by yesterday's bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunis. Bangladesh joins with Turkey and other Muslim countries in condemning this wanton aggression in the strongest possible terms, he said.

Speaking at a state banquet hosted in his honour by the Turkish President Kenan Evren at the presidential palace here, President Ershad demanded that Israel must immediately vacate all occupied territories and restore Jerusalem to its rightful sovereignty.

He hoped that this vital and central issue would be resolved soon in order that comprehensive settlement could be aimed at in those areas where conflicts tend to proliferate through intolerance and intervention.

The banquet was attended, among others, by Begum Raushan Ershad, Relief Minister Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, members of presidential entourage, Turkish President's daughter Shenay Gurvit, Premier Turgut Ozal, cabinet members and dignitaries.

President Ershad said the recent developments in Lebanon had shocked and puzzled the Muslim ummah. The shedding of blood of the Muslims by fellow Muslims added a new dimension to the already complicated Lebanese problem.

"We fully support all measures aimed at total Lebanese sovereignty and hope that our

Lebanese brethren will find ways and means for achieving the kind of independent existence which is their right", he declared.

Wishing continued progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Turkey and evergrowing friendship and enduring cooperation between the two countries, President Ershad noted with 'immense satisfaction' that Turkey and Bangladesh had worked closely, as friends and brothers ought to, in pursuing the cause of justice in all international fora.

The President said it was his firm conviction that a continuous dialogue between Turkey and Bangladesh would promote and further cement the excellent relations existing between the two fraternal countries.

President Ershad said Bangladesh foreign policy was based on the principles of respect for sovereignty of states, for the territorial integrity of nations, for non-interference and non-intervention, for the non-use of force and for the peaceful settlement of disputes. He said his country had continued to apply these principles consistently in "our dealings with the international community", through adherence to the U.N. Charter, the Non-aligned Movement, the OIC and the Common wealth.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq conflict, he said, Bangladesh had been making unrelenting efforts to bring the fratricidal war to an end. Like Turkey, he said, we have made positive and constructive endeavours in the Islamic Peace Committee toward

ending this prolonged and most wasteful conflict and of restoration of durable peace in the region. Bangladesh also expressed its desire to remain at the disposal of both countries as a Muslim as also a Non-aligned state, to contribute in whatever may it is possible to achieve conditions of peace and settlement of their disputes.

President Ershad said Bangladesh which is opposed to presence of foreign troops in any country without the U.N. approval supported the withdrawal of such troops from Afghanistan and Kampuchea. "We believe that this and this alone can create conditions that will enable the Afghan and Kampuchean people to decide their future in accordance with their will and free from outside interference," he added.

Expressing Bangladesh's abhorrence for racialism and apartheid, President Ershad condemned the recent merciless crack-down by the white racist regime on the oppressed people of South Africa. He also expressed the solidarity with those to whom South Africa rightly belonged and reiterated the unequivocal support for the Namibians' struggle for freedom.

Speaking about the coming SARC summit meeting in Dhaka, President Ershad said seven South Asian countries were engaged in promoting 'new areas of cooperation' through the South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) he said they had no doubt that this forum representing about one billion people would usher in a new era of understanding and cooperation in South Asia and will, in the not too distant future, create the right conditions for greater stability, peace and prosperity in the region. The rapid process of materialisation of the SARC in such a short span of time is indicative of the common and deep urge for amity and cooperation in the region, he said.

Turning to the home front, President Ershad said his government was now contemplating to hold presidential and parliamentary elections at the earliest opportunity. "We shall spare no efforts to achieve our desired objectives and, God willing, we shall succeed and give a better quality of life to our people," he said.

The President said Bangladesh had been working hard toward regenerating and developing the economy through a number of reformative measures. He referred to various economic, administrative, political and judicial reforms undertaken by his government and said

administration and judiciary were decentralised and elections to local bodies were held.

In the March 21 referendum this year, the people expressed their overwhelming support for his policies, the President said and added that elections to local bodies at sub-district level were also successfully completed in May last.

The President thanked the Turkish President for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to them.

He said the ties that bound the peoples of Bangladesh and Turkey date back to a period many centuries ago. During this long association much exchanges have taken place between our two lands. Muslim rulers of the sub-continent maintained close links with contemporary Turkish Sultans and their contact found expressions in our history, art and architecture.

He said, our people lent whole-hearted support to the Turkish War of Liberation and launched movements to protect the imperialist conspiracies against Turkey.

TIES HISTORICAL

Another report says: President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said here today that the roots of the ties between Bangladesh and Turkey were deep and historical and the exchanges that took place between the two countries over the years had been most beneficial for the mutual benefits of the two peoples.

Speaking at a luncheon given by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal in his honour at the Prime Minister's residence the president said it was a matter of great satisfaction that in the international arena also the two countries share common views.

The President expressed his firm conviction that frequent and continuous contacts between the two countries would contribute to the strengthening of already existing friendly relations between the two countries and lead to further growth of fraternal ties.

Earlier, welcoming President Ershad, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said the two countries would assist each other in their development process and in realising the wellbeing of their peoples. "We have shared our past joys and sorrows, and we will also share our future," he said.

The luncheon was attended, among others, by Begum Raushan Ershad, Madame Turgut Ozal, members of the presidential entourage and Turkish ministers.

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Oct 85 pp 1, 10

[Text]

ANKARA, Oct 3:—Bangladesh and Turkey have decided to explore the possibility of starting a shipping service between them to give impetus to their trade, President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said here today reports BSS.

Addressing a crowded Press conference at the Grand Ankara hotel the President said possibility of joint collaboration in the fields of cement, chemicals, glass and agro and vas-based industries would also be explored.

He said that the countries had agreed to reactivate the Joint Commission dealing with economic, trade and other matters.

President Ershad referred to the measures taken by his Government during the last few years to strengthen and revitalise Bangladesh's economy. In this context, he said private sector was given due incentive and opportunity to participate in the uplift of the country.

He said, 'we have brought administration to the door-steps of the people and reforms were effected in almost all aspects of our life including judiciary, land and social spheres.'

Referring to elections he said in Bangladesh normally national polls are held in winter. The political parties who boycotted elections in the past had now realised their mistakes, he said and hoped that this time they would take part in the elections.

Replying to a question on the Turkish Cypriot issue, President Ershad said Bangladesh had always stood by its Muslim brethren in Cyprus and focussed their cause in various international fora.

He said his country had been forcefully advocating that the Turkish Cypriots should be allowed to maintain their equal status as a community without fear of domination by the majority. He expressed Bangladesh's strong support for the promotion of rights and interests of the Turkish community in Cyprus.

The President said "we welcome the proximity talks undertaken with the two communities through the good offices of UN Secretary-General and hope for an early settlement of the issue."

President Ershad leaves here for Istanbul tomorrow morning for a two-day stay there.

Earlier report says President Hussain Muhammad Ershad expressed "great concern" here yesterday at the situation in West Asia and reiterated Bangladesh's firm support for the Palestinian brethren and their representative, the PLO and also for their inalienable rights to their homeland.

"The state of aggression by Israel not only continues unabated but is seen to escalate" he said.

The most dastardly act of aggression Israel manifested once again by Tuesday's bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunis. Bangladesh joins with Turkey and other Muslim countries in condemning this wanton aggression in the strongest possible terms, he said.

Speaking at a state banquet hosted in his honour by the Turkish President Kenan Evren at the Presidential Palace here, President Ershad demanded that Israel must immediately vacate all occupied territories and restore Jerusalem to its rightful sovereignty.

He hoped that this vital and central issue would be resolved soon in order that comprehensive settlement could be aimed at in those areas where conflicts tend to proliferate through intolerance and intervention.

The banquet was attended among others by Begum Raushan Ershad, Relief Minister Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, members of Presidential entourage, Turkish President's daughter Sherav Gurvit, Premier Turgut Ozal, Cabinet members, and dignitaries.

President Ershad said the recent developments in Lebanon had shocked and puzzled the Muslim Ummah. The shedding of blood of the Muslims by fellow Muslims added a new dimension to the already complicated Lebanese problem.

"We fully support all measures aimed at total Lebanese sovereignty and hope that our Lebanese brethren will find ways and means for achieving the kind of independent existence which is their right" he declared.

Wishing continued progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Turkey and ever-growing friendship and enduring co-operation between the two countries, President Ershad noted with "immense satisfaction" that,

Turkey and Bangladesh had worked closely, as friends and brothers ought to in pursuing the cause of justice in all international fora.

The President said it was his firm conviction that a continuous dialogue between Turkey and Bangladesh would promote and further cement the excellent relations existing between the two fraternal countries.

Speech to Istanbul Businessmen

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Oct 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

ISTANBUL, Oct 5—President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said here today that there exists great opportunities for cooperation between the businessmen and the industrialists of Turkey and Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Addressing the industrial and business leaders of Turkey, the President said the relations between Bangladesh and Turkey have always been cordial and close. The two countries can lay a solid foundation for pragmatic and permanent relations through close cooperations in

economic and business fields, he said.

President Ershad gave a brief outline of the new industrial policy adopted by his Government and said it has enacted a Foreign Private Investment Act to increase the flow of foreign investment both direct and in the form of joint ventures.

He said the Act ensures fair and equitable treatment of foreign private investment, indemnification compensation restitution, and repatriation of capital investments.

In addition President Ershad said a Foreign Investment Cell has been set up under his direct supervision of expedite sanctioning of foreign investor's courtesy service has been introduced to extend facilities to prospective foreign investors, he said.

Referring the physical facilities available in Bangladesh for foreign investment, he said an Export Processing Zone has been set up at the port city of Chittagong with essential facilities to encourage setting up of export-oriented industries.

In this connection President Ershad said Bangladesh have a vast pool of cheap and relatively trained and easily trainable labour force which permits industrial productions at a comparatively low cost.

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CSO: 4600/1060

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD MEETS WITH PRESS ON RETURN FROM TURKEY

Decision on Election Date

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Oct 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad on Monday announced that national elections would be held on a date to be decided later and there would be no further postponement.

The President, however, said that the date of the national elections would be set on the basis of a consensus after the SARC summit to be held on December 7 and 8. In his last Press Conference held on September 17 he indicated that the national elections would be held in March or April next.

Asked which of the two elections, Presidential or Parliamentary, would take place first the President said he had not yet made up his mind on this issue.

On the possibility of oppositions participation in the coming elections the President hoped that the opposition had realised their mistakes and they would take part in the elections. He said he would redeem his pledge of transferring power to an elected government.

Addressing a Press conference at Bangabhaban President Ershad said that open politics would be allowed as soon as the date for national election was set after the SARC summit. He made it amply clear that his government would not allow disruption of peace before the SARC summit. He said that it was a matter of great satisfaction that the first SARC summit was going to be held in Dhaka and the world attention would be focused on the great event.

Replying to a question President Ershad said that his government would take sincere efforts to create a congenial atmosphere for holding national elections. He indicated that he was ready to hold dialogue with the opposition on this issue.

Asked how he was going to meet the oppositions demand of holding elections under a neutral government the President said that the definition of neutral government was not known to him. "Elections will be held as it is conducted in other countries and also in the same manner as these were held on previous occasions, he added. He regretted that opposition did not take part in the

elections despite concessions. He said that there would have been no Martial Law if the opposition had participated in the elections.

Referring to the five-point demands of the opposition the President said that he had fulfilled all the demands of the alliances. He observed that the existence of the alliances was visible in the rural areas. He also pointed out that the alliances were not united now following the joining of components from the seven-party alliance in his government.

Asked whether parties from other alliance would join him President Ershad said that such possibilities cannot be ruled out. "Wait and see," he added.

In reply to a question about the possibility of further expansion of the cabinet the President said that reshuffling and expansion of cabinet was a normal practice in politics. He mentioned about the recent reshuffling of the cabinet in India.

Asked to comment on opposition's claim that his national front failed to get support of the people President Ershad said that in the front was not strong enough what presents the opposition from participating in the elections. Commenting on Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan's statement who said that a powerful section in the government was not allowing the front and Janadal to grow strong the President said that Mr. Khan was a senior leader of Janadal and it was his duty to make the party and the front more strong and united.

The President said that national front could turn into a strong united party.

President Ershad considered population explosion not political crisis as the number one problem of the country. He said that arrest of baby boom could solve all the existing problems confronting the nation.

Asked to comment on the existing law and order situation President Ershad said that it seemed to have deteriorated "only in one paper, not in the whole country". He was of the opinion that only a democratic system could improve the law and order situation in the country.

In reply to a question the President said that a cell would be established at Bangabhaban to look into the problems that grievances pointed out by the upazila representatives. He said that his government would take all measures to make the upazila system more strong and effective. When his attention was drawn to the deterioration of the judicial system at upazila level the President said that it was not the fault of the system but of the people posted there. He said that the upazila system was new and one should give it time to see its utility. [words indistinct]

Asked to comment on the demand of some upazila chairmen for allowing them to contest in the parliamentary election, the President said that no decision had yet been taken in this regard. He, however, said the matter was discussed at a recent meeting at the NICAR, "We take note of it", the President observed.

2 December 1985

Referring to his commitment to fight out corruption President Ershad said that his government had taken a number of stringent measures including dismissal of a large number of government officers from service on charge of corruption. He, however, maintained that corruption could not be totally eradicated, it should be contained as far as possible.

Asked to comment on the acceptance of his challenge on jute price by a chief of a party President Ershad said that the opposition leader had no knowledge of jute. He said that his government had fixed the maximum price of the lowest quality jute at Taka 200 which no government had done in the past. He observed that if the jute price was fixed at the rate demanded by the opposition the national exchequer would require Taka 5000 crore. "Do you want to sell the country for this money", he asked the politicians.

Visit Termed Fruitful

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Oct 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] President Ershad on Monday disclosed that a team of industrialists from Turkey would soon visit Dhaka to explore the feasibility of setting up joint venture industries in Bangladesh.

Briefing newsmen about the outcome of his state visit to Turkey President Ershad said that his visit was very fruitful and it had opened a new chapter in the field of economic cooperation between the two friendly countries. He added that the two governments had agreed to take all measures to further developing the existing bond of Dhaka-Ankara relations.

The President said that Turkish entrepreneurs had evinced interest in joint collaboration in the fields of cement, chemicals, glass and agro and gas-based industries. He disclosed that Turkey had shown interest in our Joipurhat Limestone project.

Expressing satisfaction over the outcome of the talks he had with Turkish leaders on bilateral issues the President said that an agreement on a shipping service between the two countries was expected soon to further develop the trading between Bangladesh and Turkey. He said that both the countries shared identical views on most of the major global and regional issues.

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CSO: 4600/1061

CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS BSD CHAIRMAN TOAHA

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 4 Oct 85 p 1

[Article by N. M. Harun]

[Text] Mr. Mohammad Toah, Chairman of Bangladesher Samybadhi Dal, says that how much tortuous may be the path, the five-point movement will lead the democratic struggle of the people during the regime of General H. M. Ershad.

He told me: "The people have endorsed the five-point movement and our task is to continue the movement with tactical innovations as the situation demands." The programme of observance of 'jute day' on October 14 is such a move to bring the five-point movement closer to the people and make it increasingly relevant to the practical problems of the people, he added.

For him and his party, he says, five-point demand is the 'basis' and the 15-party alliance is the 'foundation' of the current phase of the democratic struggle. He recalls he was one of the original initiators of the movement as a signatory in the 14-leader statement of January 15, 1983.

With the establishment of an umbrella understanding with the seven-party combine, he says, their democratic struggle has continued to encompass a very broad segment of the democratic, progressive forces of the country. He would like to see the struggle be broadened further, if possible, by drawing all the democratic and progressive forces.

Mr. Toaha recognises special role and weightage of the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) respectively in the 15-party alliance and the 7-party combine and in the current phase of politics in general. He explains: "Our society is dominated by the bourgeoisie and the petty-bourgeoisie, and the Awami League and the BNP are the major parties of these classes."

Mr. Toaha says that he does not find any clash between the democratic struggle, in which the Awami League or the BNP may have greater interest and Left movement which can have no other way but to proceed through democratic path.

Mr. Toaha elaborates: "From 1972 to 1975, our state policy enshrined socialism. The rulers of that period, however, made a mockery of socialism.

During that period if any genuine Marxist-Leninist party could go to power, establishment of socialism could have been possible through simple constitutional process. But from 1975, the constitutional process has been disrupted along with constitutional shift from socialism to capitalist path. Now, we have a twin-struggle--democratic struggle to re-install political process and the struggle for socialism. And the establishment of socialism will now involve a social revolution. At the moment our first and foremost task is democratic struggle."

Mr. Toaha is conscious of the weaknesses both of the democratic parties and the Left parties. He says since the 1985 martial law of Ayub Khan, political process has remained under severe adverse pressure and hence the leaders have been unable to attain political maturity required to deal with the complexities of a nation-state. He admits that political norms are not on many occasions observed. But he is hopeful that through the process of mass politics, for example the five-point movement, political parties and leaders will learn their lesson.

Mr. Toaha points out that the five-point movement has heightened the political awareness of the people to such an extent that whoever now joins the government without going through the due process will meet his political death in the eye of the people.

The task of the political leaders, he says, is now to make themselves more relevant to the people and earn their confidence that their problems will be better solved by a political government accountable to the people. He adds: "We shall have to be more responsible and must not play to the gallery and must not commit anything which will not be credible in the esteem of the people."

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CSO: 4600/1058

BANGLADESH

FACTIONS CLASH AT PRC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Oct 85 p 10

[Text]

The function celebrating the 10th anniversary of diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and China at Shilpakala Academy on Thursday organised by Bangladesh-China Friendship Association ended in clashes and explosion of crackers by the rival factions.

When contacted Ramna police confirmed bursting of crackers. The Ramna police also said Mr. Sikder, Mr. Latif and some other people were in the Ramna police station and they had been taken there to discuss the incident. The police on duty said none was arrested in this connection.

According to eyewitnesses the meeting began at 4.45 p.m. and was addressed by Fisheries Minister Mr. Siratul Hossain Khan, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Xiao Xian Qulan and Mr. Nazmul Huq Nannu. At this stage at 6.15 p.m. the hall room plunged into darkness following the electricity failure. The power supply

did not resume till 7 p.m. & a section of audience blamed the Secretary General of the Association for putting off the switch. He however denied the charge and in the process clashes ensued between the supporters of Mirza Golam Hafiz and Mr. Sikder. The panicky audience particularly ladies left the venue under police protection. The Minister left the venue just after delivering his speech.

When contacted Mirza Golam Hafiz alleged that the whole show was organised by his Secretary to prevent him from delivering his presidential speech. He also accused that Mr. Sikder hired some people to create pandemonium in the meeting. He said he would convene the Annual General Meeting of the Association within this month to discuss this issue. Mr. Sikder was not available for his comment as the Ramna police said: He can not talk now at 10 p.m.

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CSO: 4600/1060

BANGLADESH

MINISTER SEES PARTIAL REVIVAL OF CONSTITUTION

Dahak THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Oct 85 p 1

[Text]

Relevant articles of the suspended Constitution would be restored soon to maintain the dignity and independence of judiciary, Communications Minister Mr. Maudud Ahmed said, reports BSS.

The Minister, who addressed a group of lawyers of the Supreme Court on Wednesday at his Secretariat chamber, called upon them to unite themselves and to play their due role in upholding the independence of the judiciary.

"The lawyers can play a vital role in this regard and contribute greatly to the restoration of democracy in the country as well as the independence of judiciary" he opined.

Mr. Maudud Ahmed also said that with the objective of upholding the dignity of the judiciary, the Government has started the democratisation process in the country. The restoration of relevant articles of the now suspended Constitution, the Minister said, was very much linked with the broad-based democratisation process initiated by the Government of President

H.M. Ershad.

Mr. Ahmed also told the lawyers that he had all the respect for those who were in the movement for independence of judiciary. "But neither the Government nor the lawyers would be benefited if we fail to make realistic approach towards resolving the issues, particularly in the field of judiciary" he told the lawyers. Moreover, he said, the dignity of judiciary would be affected and the lawyers would not be able to play their due role in the absence of a realistic attitude towards the problem.

During the meeting the lawyers discussed with the Minister various issues and problems of the lawyers community as well as the judiciary. The Minister assured them of all possible help to resolve those.

The lawyers, who met the Minister were among others, Amir Hussain Khandakar, Abdul Hasib, Raushan Ali, Nazmul Hossain, Shamsur Rahman, Abdul Ghani Talukder, A.M. Lutfar Rahman, M.A. Jalil, Abul Kashem Miah, Sazzadul Haque, Lutfar Rahman, Fazlul Haque and Mainur Reza Chowdhury.

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CSO: 4600/1060

BANGLADESH

FOREIGN MINISTER TELLS PLANS FOR UNGA SESSION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Sep 85 p 10

[Text] Foreign Minister Humavun Rasheed Chowdhury said that Dhaka would table a resolution in the forthcoming 40th UN General Assembly appealing to the member countries and international organisations to help the Bangladesh Government in finding a permanent integrated solution to the problems of the natural disasters that afflict the country from time to time.

Addressing a Press conference the Foreign Minister said that the resolution would take note of the remarkable cooperation and solidarity displayed by friendly states, particularly the SARC countries in assisting Bangladesh in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone and tidal wave in last May. He said that international financial institutions and specialised agencies like World Bank have the technical capability of devising permanent integrated solutions to tackle the natural calamities.

Referring to Dhaka's role in the 40th UN Assembly session the Foreign Minister said that Bangladesh would actively participate in all the deliberations of the session. He added that Bangladesh's role in the session would reflect the Non-Aligned character of her foreign policy and her deep commitment to the ideals and objectives of the OIC.

Mr. Chowdhury said that Bangladesh would try to contribute to the cause of the developing world and the promoting of international peace, security and development.

The Foreign Minister considered the election of Bangladesh to the post of the President of the 41st session of the UN Assembly as the demonstration of the success of the "dynamic foreign policy under the personal directive of President Ershad". He said that it would be his constant endeavour to follow the guidance and directives of President Ershad in the field of foreign policy to play due role in the world body for the cause of global peace security, cooperation and development.

The Foreign Minister said that President Ershad would attend the commemorative session of the UN Assembly in October.

The session which is expected to be participated by heads of state and government will consider adopting a suitable text for a final document for international peace.

BANGLADESH

FOREIGN OFFICE TELLS STAND AT GENEVA TRADE TALKS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Sep 85 p 8

[Text] Bangladesh has proposed a nine-point action programme aimed at reactivating the growth of both the developing and the developed economies, reports BSS.

Proposing the programme recently at the 31st session of the Trade and Development Board in Geneva, Bangladesh delegation leader A.H.S. Ataul Karim also called for international community's commitment to implement a Foreign Office Press release said in Dhaka on Saturday.

Ambassador Ataul Karim, who is Bangladesh permanent representative to UN offices in Geneva strongly pleaded for immediate international action to fully implement the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Discussing the plight of the developing and the least developed economies Ambassador Karim called for a "unified position" by the international community to evolve a perspective for "coordinated and convergent" action in the inter-related areas of trade, development, finance and monetary system.

The Bangladesh delegation leader said that despite the "disastrous impact" of the global economic recession on developing and least developed economies, the measures taken for recovery from it (recession) completely by passed these countries.

He called for immediate debt relief measures to help the developing countries reactivate the growth and development process of their economies.

Salient features

The nine-point programme to reactivate growth in developed and developing countries includes a substantial increase in the flow of external resources from the developed to the developing countries in real terms, adopting of effective debt relief measures supportive of renewed growth in the developing countries, significant changes in the macro-economic policies of the developed countries and in the conditionality of IMF and other international financing agencies, immediate implementation of the commitment for standstill and

rollback of protectionism, adequate compensation of export earning shortfalls in the developing countries, early operation of the common fund for commodities, enhanced South-South co-operation and adoption of a programme for immediate implementation of the SNPA for the Least Developed Countries at the forthcoming midterm global review.

Ambassador Karim concluded by sounding a warning that unless major policy actions were adopted in all inter-related areas of development particularly in respect of debt, growth and trade there was real risk that 1980s could be "a lost decade" for development, with all consequences for the future of the mankind.

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CSO: 4600/1047

BANGLADESH

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON VISITS TO REGION CAPITALS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Oct 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

All the leaders of the six other countries will attend the forthcoming first ever summit in Dhaka for launching the forum for regional cooperation among the seven South Asian countries.

This was disclosed by Foreign Secretary Faruk Ahmed Choudhury to newsmen yesterday evening on his return after handing over the invitation letters to the leaders of six countries.

Mr Choudhury, during his visit as Special Envoy to the capitals of the six other South Asian countries—Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, The Maldives and Nepal—met the leaders and handed over the invitation letters from the Bangladesh President for attending the summit.

The leaders invited for the summit are King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, President Mohammad Ziaul Huq of Pakistan, President J.R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka, President Mamoun Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives and King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah of Nepal. Most of them will be accompanied by their wives during their visit.

"All the leaders accepted the invitation and agreed to attend the summit," the Foreign Secretary said and added "there was tremendous enthusiasm demonstrated equally by all the countries of the region for the summit."

During the visits, Mr. Choudhury discussed matters regarding the first South Asian regional summit with his counterpart of those countries.

In this regard he said the declaration to be made by the heads of state and government at the summit had already been drafted in unanimity in close cooperation with all the countries as was assigned by the last foreign ministers' preparatory meeting in Thimpu, Bhutan.

Replying to a question whether he had discussed the bilateral outstanding issues with the Indian leaders during his visit, the Foreign Secretary said he touched the issues during his talks with his Indian counterpart in Delhi. He, however, declined to elaborate saying "first I will have to apprise my foreign minister of my talks with the Indian Foreign Secretary."

Pressed further whether he was optimistic following his talks, Mr. Choudhury said "I am hopeful."

He told another questioner that he had also discussions on

matters of mutual interest with his Pakistani and Nepalese counterparts in Islamabad and Kathmandu. He said 'no' when asked whether he discussed the repatriation issue with his Pakistani counterpart.

Replying to another question on new areas for South Asian regional cooperation, the Foreign Secretary said "there are some ideas about new areas for inclusion besides the identified fields and these may be discussed later but not at the summit."

Asked whether the forum for regional cooperation in South Asia would help resolve important outstanding bilateral issues in the region, he said "through the summit and the SARC we will be able to create a climate for resolving the issues."

Mr Faruk Ahmed Choudhury, who apparently looked confident and happy after his whirlwind tour of the South Asian capitals since September 19, said a cultural week would be held in Dhaka from November 30 to December 6 when all the seven countries would participate.

The heads of state and government will witness the grand cultural show of the region on the concluding day of the twoday summit on December 8.

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CSO: 4600/1060

BANGLADESH

PAPERS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN JUTE MARKET

Support From Government

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Sep 85 pp 1, 14

[Text] The recent decision of the government to create a buffer stock of jute and extend minimum support price of Tk. 200 per maund for the lowest quality (SMR) of jute at the growers' level has made favourable impact on the overall jute market position in the country reports BSS.

Primary jute market sources observed that these steps had given the growers strength of bargaining for better prices and helped considerably in bringing back stability in the jute market.

The sources said the price of jute fell due to good harvest this year and the problem became more acute due to larger percentage of low quality jute as the growers had insufficient water for retting. Moreover they said due to limited demand of low quality jute and vulnerability of growers to intermediate traders the farmers were not getting proper prices for their low quality (SMR) jute.

Jute Ministry and jute trading sources commenting on the jute position categorically said that the price index of jute had got a favourable boosting effect with the taking of the government decisions recently for awarding minimum support price for SMR jute and creation of buffer stock.

They said according to jute grading the Cross Bottom was the lowest grade while SMR jute is rejection jute which did not conform to any gradation even though they said the government is buying SMR jute to protect the growers interest. Taka 200 per maund was not the minimum support price for the average jute but only for SMR jute.

About the minimum support price of the SMR jute the sources said this was the first time that such support price was being given to jute to protect the interest of growers. This price was not for any medium and higher grade of jute which were already enjoying comfortable price in the market.

They felt that overall situation in the jute sector should be viewed in the context of national interest and not from narrow political consideration.

Actually jute had been made an element of politicking without understanding economics and market mechanism. The sources observed and said without organising effective means to protect the interest of growers such politics with jute would go to the benefits of others rather than the growers.

Meanwhile, a world bank report on the price trend of agricultural commodities in the world said that jute was the worst hit farm produce. It said the price of jute, which jumped abnormally high last season due to low production of the crop in the jute growing countries had been going down sharply this year.

The report said in July this year alone the price of jute went down by 23.7 percent. It also attributed the reluctance of international buyer as one of the major causes for the steep fall in jute prices.

While Bangladesh received a good harvest this year Indian production also increased to [figure indistinct] lakh bales. After meeting the local demand in India, there would be a huge surplus, it said.

According to sources connected with jute trade, the problems this time cropped up with the slowing down of movement of jute from primary to terminal end. As a result, they said the storage facilities available in the purchase agency level were filled up affecting the intake capacity of the centres causing dampening effect on the price position.

When this was brought to the notice of the BJC source, he agreed to the reason put forward by the jute trading circle and said in order to ease the market position and enhance movements in jute market, arrangements had been made at the directive of President Ershad to acquire more godowns, introduce jute trains from agency to terminal ends and provide adequate power supply to those jute mills which wanted to run a third shift.

These steps, he said, had already infused mobility in the movement of jute from primary market to terminal points.

Official sources said that so far 18 lakh bales of jute had been lifted from the primary market of which the government agencies like Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMC) and Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) had procured the major quantum.

They said the support price for the lowest quality of jute (SMR) accorded at the directive of President Ershad would uphold the interest of the growers and would enable them to get better average prices for their produce.

The sources said the government had been keeping watchful eye on jute position and would take necessary measures from time to time to maintain the stability of raw jute price and also for export of raw jute and jute goods, they said.

Besides, a jute monitoring cell has been created in the CMLA's Secretariat to regularly monitor the position of jute price at the primary markets, its movements to the terminal points and performance of public and private sector in jute trade.

Hasina Scores Jute Policy

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Sep 85 pp 1,8

[Text] Sheikh Hasina, chief of Bangladesh Awami League said on Monday that they would be able to fix the minimum price of jute at Taka 500 per maund. Under state control marketing and production systems the farmers would be also-ensured just price for their products, she added.

The investments of the unproductive sectors would be diverted to finance the jute sector she said. She however, did not elaborate whether that money would be enough to meet the increased expenditure.

Addressing a Press conference at the Dhanmondi residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the day the Awami League chief also demanded nationalisation of jute industry.

Accepting the challenge of the government Sheikh Hasina said that her party would be able to offer the minimum jute price of Tk. 500 per maund. Reading out a ten-page written statement at a Press conference on the day she accused the government for the depressing condition in the jute market. She held responsible all the governments since 1975 change over for the distressing condition of jute growers due to wrong and erroneous policy.

Replying to a question she said, "We will not disclose our mechanism now"/

The jute industry has now become a monopoly business in the hands of a few capitalists likewise the jute trade is being manipulated by touts and middle men, she said. This has resulted in the direct miseries of the jute growers, she said.

She emphatically said that the present government does not have any clear jute policy although it has a big jute ministry and a minister. The government failed to formulate a jute policy at the beginning of jute season she alleged. The government became alert only when the price has gone down to Tk. 125 per maund.

The quality of jute produced in the country had been described as low quality which she said as a suicidal statement. Giving a comparative price of jute sold in the country last year and now she said it was now selling between Tk. 125 and Tk. 150 per maund against the last year's price level of Tk. 600 to Tk. 700 per maund.

She further claimed that during Awami League rule the farmers would get 67 percent of the international price while at present they were getting only about 30 percent of international market rate.

The jute industries disinvested to individual owners at a nominal price also refrained from purchasing jute from the farmers this year, she said. Had there been purchase of jute at the government level for making buffer stock at the beginning of the jute season the disappointing situation prevailing in the jute price would be avoided, she said.

The export had a setback last year due to wrong policy despite demands from buyers abroad for purchase of the commodity at a high rate, she said. She further claimed that the total budget allocation in the unproductive sector including that of the upazila would amount to over Tk. 1,000 crore. She also criticised the government for reduced budget allocation in the agricultural sector.

In reply to a question regarding her party activity the Awami League chief said that they were holding meetings and giving out programmes ignoring all restrictions. Asked whether it was possible because of a secret understanding with the government she said with annoyance that had there been any understanding of the sort so many Awami League party workers could not have been harassed and arrested. To another questioner she said: "Our movement is at that stage where the Press has kept it."

Asked whether their movement was dependent on Press statements she said, "The media play a vital factor in taking ahead the political movement".

Sheikh Hasina said that her party was fully aware of its responsibility while making the statement regarding fixation of minimum jute price at Tk 500 per maund and they could implement it. But she avoided clarification to a newsman when asked what price she could suggest for which the government had fixed Tk 200 as the minimum price per maund.

Had there been a representative government the situation would not have taken such a grave turn she felt. The government of Awami League undertook a policy for construction of Ware House stores in border areas for procurement of jute but the governments after 1975 change over did not implement it, she said.

Replying to newsmen she said that the check of smuggling of jute from across the border was the responsibility of the members of the law enforcing agencies. But they have failed to stop the smuggling, she alleged.

PRC Purchases Noted

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 8 Oct 85 p 3

[Text] Bangladesh Jute Corporation and a representative of a Chinese buying agency on Sunday signed an agreement for the purchase of five thousand tons of jute worth Taka five crore and fifty lakh from Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The shipment of jute will begin in November-December.

Earlier, China has purchased ten thousand tons of jute from Bangladesh.

The Chinese buying agency expressed its willingness to buy more raw jute from Bangladesh in future.

Twelve exporters of raw jute Sunday hailed the government's decision to build buffer stock of jute as a realistic one.

In a joint statement they said that the programme to build buffer stock of jute had helped overcome the slump in jute market.

They expressed the hope that proper implementation of the programme would activate the jute market and help push up its prices. The upward trend in the jute market is already evident, they added.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1062

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

SATDIN WEEKLY BANNED--The Government has prohibited with immediate effect the publication of any subsequent issue of the Bengali weekly SATDIN printed, published and edited by Dolly Anowar from EP Printing Press Maghbazar and 280, New Eskaton Road, Dhaka, says BSS. The action against the weekly has been taken under the Special Powers Act 1974 for publishing a prejudicial article captioned "Mrirtur adh-ghantar maddhey jadi kono mirter dabidar na ashey tabe ta hoy aggyata parichay Iash" and several pictures which can endanger the maintenance of public order. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Sep 85 p 1] /9274

JOINT USSR VENTURE--Soviet Union is keen to produce films with Bangladesh, under joint venture, the Managing Director of Film Development Corporation (FDC) said in Friday, reports BSS. Group Captain (Retd) Saiful Azam who led a three-member Bangladesh delegation to the recently held 14th Moscow international film festival said besides film production, we also discussed with the Soviet officials exchange of films under barter protocol between the two countries. The FDC's Managing Director while giving his impressions about the Moscow festival at a reception for the delegates held at the Soviet Cultural Centre, said "we are working to reach an agreement on the exchange of films." Film actress Mrs. Babita Alam, a member of the delegation and Y. R. Sarkisian, Second Secretary of the Soviet Embassy also spoke. Group Capt. Azam said the festival provided an excellent opportunity to film makers from various countries to get acquainted with each other. He said it was also a good occasion for commercial trading of films, which we should utilise in future." Mr. Sarkisian said the festival by bringing film people around the world was becoming popular each year for promotion of 'peace and friendship' through films. 'Girl Seeks Father' a feature film depicting the harrowing experience during the Second World War and a documentary of the Tashkent Film Festival of 1978 were shown at the reception. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 22 Sep 85 p 3] /9274

SUDANESE, SYRIAN PURCHASES--Bangladesh will export 127,639 bales of hessian and sacking worth Taka 84.44 crore to Sudan and Syria under two contracts signed recently with two organisations of those countries, reports BSS. Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) concluded its biggest ever deal after it won the tender floated by Sudan's Gezira Board for the supply of a variety of 80,639 bales of hessian and sacking worth Taka 51.44 crore, a BJMC source said today. The BJMC's General Manager in Africa, Mr. K. R. Chowdhury and Sudan's Director (Purchase) of the Ministry of Finance and

Planning, Mr. A. Kindawi, signed the contract in Khartoum on Sunday last. Under the other contract, the BJMC signed with the Syrian Textiles General Foreign Trade Organisation in Damascus on Sunday last, Bangladesh will export 47,000 bales of hessian worth Taka 33 crore to Syria. The shipment for Sudan is expected to begin early next month, the source said. Jute goods sales, the source said, had picked up from September after months of dull trading. The total value of the recently concluded sales contracts the BJMC signed will be about Taka 170 crore, the source added. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 19 Sep 85 p 1] /9274

ENVOY TO BURUNDI--The Government has decided to concurrently accredit Mr Abdul Momin Choudhury, at present High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Kenya, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Burundi, says an official announcement. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 14 Sep 85 p 3] /9274

SHANTI BAHINI PAROLES--Rangmati, Sept 20: Nine Shanti Bahini members arrested from different hilly areas in the past were released recently, reports BSS. This was disclosed by Maj Gen M Nuruddin Khan, Zonal Martial Law Administrator, Zone "C" while addressing a function in connection with the inauguration of electric supply to Mainarchar upazila under Rangamati district recently. Gen Khan said that the release was inconsonance with the declared policy of the government towards the Shanti Bahini for their return to normal social life. He called upon the Shanti Bahini members to return to normal civic life and participate in the development activities of the country. The function was presided over by Mr Tilok Chandra Chakma, Upazila Chairman, and attended among others by Chiroa Joyoti Khisha, a tribal leader, government officials, members of the tribal convention and elite of the area. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Sep 85 p 1] /9274

INDIA'S DAHAGRAM PLANS--Rangpur, Sept. 19: India appears to have completed a massive preparation to replace the Bangladeshis living in our enclaves of Dahagram and Angorpota by Assamese immigrants who would be deported under Delhi Agreement. Those who fled Dahagram and reached mainland said that a batch of 2,000 families had already been evicted from these enclaves and housed them in schools, vacant houses and tents close to international pillar numbers 1008 and 1013. These families would be pushed into mainland Bangladesh as a test case, the victims said. They said that the Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) open fire near this forced concentration of Bangladeshis near the border as warning against their efforts to go back to their homes. There is unusual massive concentration of BSF led by S. K. Mukherjee in the area. Local people apprehend that the forces were brought for the purpose. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Sep 85 p 1] /9274

ENCLAVE RESIDENTS HARASSED--Rangpur, Sept. 18: Bangladeshi nationals living in Dahagram and Angorpota enclaves are being intimidated and harassed by the Indians following the publication of report on the deteriorating law and order situation there in different newspapers of the country recently. According to information, a large number of Indians entered Dahagram and Angorpota enclaves holding copies of some of Bangladeshi dailies in their

hands asked the prominent people of the enclaves to contradict the report or face dire consequences. Now fifteen thousand Bangladeshi nationals who live in virtual captivity apprehend fresh torroism in the enclaves, the information said. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES .lish 19 Sep 85 p 1] /9274

PEOPLE'S LEAGUE SECRETARY—A three-day long general meeting of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh People's League (BPL) concluded on Wednesday at its central office with the party Chairman Advocate Garib Newaj in the chair, says a Press release. In a decision of the meeting Syed Mahbub Hossain Secretary General was expelled from the party for anti-party activities and Mr M. A. Aziz former President of Bangladesh Chhatra League was made Acting Secretary General of the party. The meeting also demanded withdrawal of restriction of political activities. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Sep 85 p 3] /9274

ESCAP AID SOUGHT--Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Minister for Ports, Shipping and IWT had a meeting at the ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok with Mr S.A.M.S. Kibria, Executive Secretary and senior officials of the Transport Communications and Tourism and Shipping, Ports and IWT Divisions and Technical Cooperation Divison of ESCAP on Monday, an official handout said in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS. Each of the heads of the division explained to the DCMLA about their different programmes. During the discussions, the DCMLA enquired about various activities undertaken by ESCAP in different fields, particularly in the field of transport and shipping. He also enquired about the progress in the setting up of a regional IWT centre in Bangladesh. The DCMLA urged the ESCAP secretariat to expedite setting up of the centre and also called upon them to extend technical assistance to Bangladesh in different sub-sectors of the transport communications shipping and IWT sector the handout said. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Sep 85 p 10] /9274

PRC JUTE PURCHASE--China will buy 10 thousand tons, equivalent to about 55 thousand 5 hundred bales, of raw jute valued at about Tk. 10 crore from Bangladesh, a PID handout said, reports BSS. A contract to this effect was signed in Dhaka on Wednesday between Bangladesh Jute Corporation and China National Native Produce and Animal by-products Import and Export Corporation. This is the first purchase of jute from Bangladesh by China in the current season. The shipment against this contract will be made between October and December this year. China is expected to buy more jute from Bangladesh in near future, the handout said. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 Sep 85 p 1] /9274

INVITATION TO SUMMIT--Islamabad, Sept. 24: Mr Farooq A. Choudhury, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh called on the President, General Mohammad Zia-ul Haq at the Aiwan-e-Sadr here this afternoon, reports AFP. He delivered an invitation to the President from the President of Bangladesh Lt. General H. M. Ershad to participate in the SARC summit meeting scheduled to be held in Dhaka from December 7 this year. The President graciously accepted the invitation and assured cooperation to make the summit a success. The

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Bangladesh Foreign Secretary also thanked the President and the people of Pakistan for their sympathies and assistance for the cyclone victims of Bangladesh. The Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, called on Prime Minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo at the Prime Minister's Secretariat here today. The Foreign Secretary conveyed to Prime Minister the warm and personal greetings of President H M Ershad who is looking forward to personally meet the Prime Minister at the earliest opportunity. The Prime Minister asked the Foreign Secretary to convey his best regard to President Ershad and to assure him that Pakistan will fully cooperate with Bangladesh to make the first-ever SARC summit, a truly successful meeting. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 Sep 85 pp 1, 8] /9274

NEW MAURITIUS ENVOY--Mauritius has appointed Anund Piyay Neewoor as its High Commissioner to Bangladesh a Foreign Office announcement said in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS. Born June 26: 1940 Mr. Neewoor graduated from Delhi University in 1964 and joined the External Affairs Ministry of Mauritius in 1970. The announcement said he held various important positions at home and abroad and participated in different international conferences. Also his country's High Commissioner to India Mr. Neewoor has his residence in New Delhi. Mr. Neewoor is married and has three children. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Sep 85 p 3] /9274

JUTE MONITORING CELL--A monitoring cell has been set up at the CMLA's Secretariat to keep vigilance on the jute market situation, reports BSS. Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation and Bangladesh Jute Corporation also opened control rooms to receive the reports on daily purchase of raw jute from their purchase centres. These steps have been taken as a follow up action for the materialisation of jute policy official sources said. Bangladesh Jute Corporation will continue to buy raw jute through all purchasing centres. Moreover arrangements have been made to purchase Uncut SMR jute at Taka 215 per maund and Uncut X-Bottom variety at Taka 250 per maund through its purchasing centres at Narayaoganj Daulatpur Rangpur Dinajpur Saidpur Joypurhat and Sharishabari. The private organisations like Bangladesh Jute Mills Association and Bangladesh Jute Association have been asked to submit their daily purchase report to the CMLA's Secretariat. The authorities have been asked to make necessary arrangements for proper storage and transport of jute. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Sep 85 p 1] /9274

ENVOY TO BRUNEI--Mr. Iftekhhar Karim, a banker, has been appointed Bangladesh High Commissioner to Brunei Dar-us-Salam, Foreign Office announced on Thursday, reports BSS. Mr. Karim will be the first Resident High Commissioner to Brunei. Earlier Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia was concurrently accredited to Brunei since it became independent on January [date indistinct] last year. The Foreign Office announcement said Mr. Karim had been Director General Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) for France, Monte Carlo, Tunisia and Congo since 1982. His responsibilities as BCCI executive included managing the multiple branch operations in these countries and also management of the BCCI's relationship with multinational and international organisations, African governments, central banks and trading groups the announcement said. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Sep 85 p 10] /9274

BNP STANDING COMMITTEE--BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia has appointed 11 leaders of the party as members of its Standing Committee, according to a press release. They are: Mirza Golam Hafiz, Prof. Badruddowza Chowdhury, A. K. M. Obaidur Rahman, Majed ul Huq, Saifur Rahman, Mustafizur Rahman, Emran, Ali Sarkar, Abdu Salam Talukdar, Ali Ahmed, Mohammad Younus and Khandakar Delwar Hossain. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Sep 85 p 1] /9274

TOAHA STATEMENT--The Chairman of Bangladesher Shamyabadi Dal, Mohammad Toaha, demanded of the government to announce a sound national jute policy and fix the minimum jute price acceptable to all, reports ENA. In a statement, Mohammad Toaha criticised the administration for its failure to formulate a sound jute policy and fix fair price of it. He observed the government rate of Taka 200 for per maund of jute will adversely affect the jute cultivation. Mr. Toaha called for convening a grand conference of national leaders to formulate a national jute policy. Keeping in view the national interest particularly of the jute growers and the jute traders. Mohammad Toaha also called for holding elections of parliament on the basis of five-point demand to resolve the crisis facing the nation. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Sep 85 p 8] /9274

BNP (SHAH) COMMITTEES--BNP (Shah) has announced reorganised district committees for Chittagong South, Chittagong North, Ramgar, Comilla Sadar South and North, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Moakhali, Feni and Sunamganj. Advocate Abu Salek and Sayed Wahidul Alam have been made President and General Secretary respectively for Chittagong North district. Mustafizur Rahman Chowdhury and Fazlul Karim, for Chittagong South district. Ruhul Amin and Abdul Khalek for Ramgar district. Advocate Nurul Islam and advocate Abdul Jalil for Comilla North district. Abdul Wadud and Sultan Ahmed for Comilla South district. Farrouk Ahmed Chowdhury and Advocate Abdul Latif for Brahmanbaria district. Advocate Khorshed Alam Bhuiyan and advocate Md. Siraj for Chandpur district. A. B. M. Abdul Awal master and advocate Mohiuddin Mahmud for Noakhali district. Khwaja Ahmed and Mujibul Haq Chowdhury for Feni district. Capt (retd) M. A. Wadud Pathan and advocate Abdur Rab for Sunamganj district. Party Chairman Shah Azizur Rahman and Secretary General Mr. A. K. M. Mayedul Islam have approved the committees. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 Oct 85 p 3] /9274

COOPERATION WITH DPRK--Mr. Pak Sung Chul Vice President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has said that as "fraternal states" of Asia the friendship and cooperation between his country and Bangladesh should grow from strength to strength, reports BSS. The DPRK leader was receiving the credentials of Bangladesh Ambassador A Z M Enayetullah Khan in Pyongyang Thursday last. Vice President Pak spoke briefly on the recent achievements and undertakings by the government and the people of DPRK. DPRK Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam, who the Bangladesh Ambassador met, expressed his government's "keen interest" to strengthen bilateral relations and extend the areas of cooperation in Trade and economic sectors. Mr Khan, also Bangladesh Ambassador to China with residence in Beijing is concurrently accredited to DPRK. He also called on foreign Trade Minister Choe Jong Gun. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 Oct 85 p 3] /9274

BNP (SHAH) YOUTH WING--BNP (Shah Aziz) has constituted its youth front Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal with Golam Kibria Tipu as its President and Masud Hilal as General Secretary. The just-formed Jubo Dal will be steered by a 51-member central committee. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 Sep 85 p 8] /9274

SWEDISH ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS--The Ambassador-designate of Sweden to Bangladesh, Miss Eva Heckscher presented her credentials to President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at Bangabhaban Sunday morning, reports BSS. The new envoy expressed the hope that during her tenure of office the existing friendly ties and cooperation between Bangladesh and Sweden will be strengthened further to the mutual benefit of their peoples. Reciprocating, President Ershad assured the new Ambassador of all possible cooperation in the smooth discharge of her duties. Earlier, on arrival at Bangabhaban the Swedish envoy was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment. She took salute and inspected the guard. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 25 Sep 85 p 3] /9274

EXPORTS TO SCANDINAVIA--Bangladesh has received export orders for different items including ready-made garments worth Taka 23 crores from Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The orders have been placed by different parties in these countries with the Bangladesh exporters in the course of a Contract Promotion Programme. The week-long programme, organised by Export Promotion Bureau in cooperation with Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, concluded on September 25 last. Led by the Vice-Chairman, Export Promotion Bureau, the programme was participated by seven exporters from the country. The items under the export orders cover garments, sea-food, jute goods, specialised textiles, tea and handicrafts. This will be for the first time that Bangladesh will be stepping into new export markets in Norway and Denmark. Although Bangladesh had some export trade with Sweden, the recent export orders from Sweden would involve a substantial volume of goods. Meanwhile readymade garments including shirts, pants, jackets, skirts, hospital uniforms, slacks, etc. would account for the major portion of the aggregate value of the new export orders from Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The new export orders are likely to have a favourable impact on efforts for market diversification in the country's readymade garments sector. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Oct 85 p 1] /9274

PRC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED--The Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Mr Xiao Xiang Qian held a reception at the Embassy on Monday evening to mark the 36th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. It was also the farewell reception of the Ambassador and Mrs Xiao Xiang Qian DCMLA and Naval Chief Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, Food Minister Major General Mahabbat Jan Chowdhury, Communication Minister Mr Moudud Ahmed, Minister for Irrigation and Flood Control Mr Anisul Islam Mahmood, Commerce Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Mr Sira, Jul Hossain Khan State Minister for Communication Mr Shafiqul Gani Swapan and Deputy Minister for Agriculture Mr. Moinuddin Bhuiyan high ranking military and civil officials attended the reception. Prominent among the political figures present at the reception were former President Khondker Moshtaque Ahmed, Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina, BNP Chairman Begum Khaleda Zia,

former Prime Minister Mr Ataur Rahman Khan, Mr Md Toaha, Dr Kamal Hossain and Biplobi Communist League leader Abdul Matin. Mr Howard B. Schaffer, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh was also present at the function. This is for the first time since the liberation of the country any Awami League leader attended the Chinese reception in Dhaka. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Oct 85 p 8] /9274

NEW CABINET ADVISER--The President on Saturday appointed Mr M. Syeduzzaman as an Adviser with the rank and status of a cabinet minister, reports BSS. Mr Syeduzzaman will continue to hold the charge of the Ministry of Finance. He was Principal Finance Secretary and Finance Adviser with rank and status of deputy chairman, Planning Commission. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 29 Sep 85 p 1] /9274

BCU OFFICIALS EXPELLED--An extended meeting of the national working committee of Bangladesh Biplobi Chhatra Union held under the Chairmanship of Mr Asaduzzaman Asad on Friday expelled Mizanur Rahman Manu and Anil Chandra Maran, President and Vice-President respectively on charge of their anti-organisational activities. The meeting formed a new convening committee with Nazrul Islam Noman and Abdul Hossain as Joint Conveners. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 29 Sep 85 p 2] /9274

COMMUNIST PARTY'S DEMAND--Communist Party of Bangladesh demanded open political activities and full trade union right. A workers meeting of the party held on Wednesday afternoon at the party central office also demanded announcement of the date of parliament election. The rally also reiterated its demand for holding the election in a neutral atmosphere. Mr. Mohammed Farhad, General Secretary of CPB told the workers meeting that the nation cannot overcome the present difficulties keeping the national politics confined to parlour. He further said that the people would not have any role in national affairs in the absence of democratic right. Presided over by Mr. Abdus Salam, Vice-President of the party the meeting was addressed among others by Mujahidul Islam Selim, Ali Aksad Nurul Islam and Mukul Chowdhury. The speakers reiterated the party's determination to continue the struggle for establishing the rights of the people and called for stronger left unity to bring about a change in the social system in Bangladesh. They criticized the formation of National Front. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Oct 85 p 1] /9274

COMMUNISTS PLAN MERGER--An emergency session of the central committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Bangladesh held on September 24 and 25 under the chairmanship of Mr Saradindu Dastidar approved the decision for unification of the party with Workers Party and Samyabadi Dal to build a united party for the revolutionary communists. Addressed by [word indistinct] Tipu Biswas, Bimal Biswas, Azizur Rahman; Abdul Matin and Wahidur Rahman and others the meeting called for broadbased unity among all democratic forces including the 15 and seven party alliances to build a mass movement. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28 Sep 85 p 8] /9274

CSO: 4600/1063

NEPAL

SOVIET HELP IN NEPAL'S DEVELOPMENT LAUDED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 31 Oct 85 p 1

[Text] Home Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha has expressed the confidence that Nepal-Soviet relations, based as they are on the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual understanding and equality, will continue to develop for mutual benefit.

Mr. Shrestha was speaking at a function organised by Nepal-Soviet Friendship Association, Nepal-Soviet Cultural Association and Mitra Kunja at City Hall Wednesday, on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of Great October revolution of the Soviet Union.

He said Soviet assistance in the development of transportation sector, establishment of industries and in the areas of hydroelectricity and health made available since 1960 had helped in the economic development of Nepal. He hoped that Soviet Union would also show interest in the economic development of this country in future.

Mr. Shrestha said relations between the two countries has been further strengthened as a result of the visit to the Soviet Union by His late Majesty King Mahendra in 1958 and by His Majesty King Birendra in 1978 and Marshall Vorosilov's visit to Nepal in 1960.

The Home Minister said His Majesty the King's proposal that Nepal be declared a zone of peace had been supported by many countries and expressed the confidence that support to the proposal would also be received soon from other countries.

On the occasion Deputy Prime Minister of Maldivia Republic of the Soviet Union Nelly Pavlovno Kiriyaich said world peace and development were based on friendship.

Underlining the importance of peace she said Soviet Union had attained significant achievements in developing major industries and factories today.

She said the people of the Republic of Maldivia were making efforts to attain social and economic development.

Soviet Ambassador to Nepal G.K. Scheglov said Soviet Union wanted to see Nepal prosperous.

President of Nepal-Soviet Cultural Association Bhuvan Lal Pradhan, who was on the chair, said Nepal-Soviet relations were being consolidated.

A cultural programme depicting the cultural life of Maldavia was presented at the end of the programme.

/13104

CSO: 4600/74

NEPAL

BRIEFS

LIFE EXPECTANCY FIGURES--The average life expectancy at birth of the Nepalese people has touched the half century mark. According to the figures of the Central Bureau of Statistics it stood at 50 years in 1981. The expectancy for male was 51 while it was 48 for female. This compares with an average expectancy of 45 years in 1976 with 42 years for male and 45 years for female. Likewise, the average expectancy in 1971 was 38 years with 40 years for male and 37 years for female which compares with average expectancy of 34 years with 33 years for male and 35 for female in 1961. If the life expectancy at birth is growing the infant mortality rate is declining over the years. Compared to the rate of 182 and 150 per 1000 live births in 1964 and 1976 respectively, the infant mortality rate was only 123 per thousand live births in 1981. [Text] [Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 29 Oct 85 p 1, 6]

ACTION AGAINST NEWSPAPERS CRITICIZED--President of Nepal-Journalist's Association Nirmal Kumar Arjyal has demanded that His Majesty's Government withdraw the action being taken against the weeklies Yojana, Jwala, Sagarmatha Sandesh and Yugbhasha and the daily Diary. Mr. Arjyal made this demand in a statement published by him on behalf of the Association. The statement also deplores the closure of these newspapers and asks for the immediate release of Krishna Prasad Shibakoti, the editor and publisher of the weekly Jwala. [Text] [Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 3 Nov 85 p 3]

/13104
CSO: 4600/74

PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY VIEWS SUPERPOWER SUMMIT

GF121037 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 5 Nov 85 p 4

[Article by Abdussalam Khorshid: "Reagan-Gorbachev Talks Will Succeed"]

[Text] World attention is currently centered on the talks between the Soviet leader Gorbachev and President Reagan due to be held in Geneva during the 3rd week of this month. No one can deny that both want peace; the world wants the same. This can be achieved only if tension is first reduced, then a reduction made in armament. The current difficulty is that the Soviet Union refuses to give up its demand that the "Star Wars" plan be scratched, while the United States is bent on carrying it out. There is another difference. The Soviet Union wants the talks to be limited to disarmament; the United States wants the tension growing in various countries to be brought to an end. In any case, despite the differences, one can hope for a happy outcome to these talks.

To begin with, the Soviet Union had proposed that both the countries cut by half the number of their intercontinental nuclear missiles and that the United States agree to abandon its research plan on "Star Wars". The Soviet foreign minister recently went a step further, saying that if an agreement is reached on the deployment of medium range nuclear missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union would freeze deployment of its SS-20 missiles. In other words, their number would remain the same as it is now; no more would be added. The United States has always stressed that if the intention is to reduce arms, both countries should have the right to inspect the other's installations. On this point, the Soviet foreign minister stated that if the inspection through technical sources does not appear satisfactory and one is not satisfied with it, then they would follow a procedure on which both the parties agree.

Although it does not seem correct to depend on the words used in the international policies and diplomacy, in the present case it becomes necessary, because both want to reduce arms and a tug of war concerning the question is occurring between them.

In his interview with the BBC, President Reagan stated that during the coming summit, tension between the superpowers is bound to lessen and talks on regional differences would not assume so much importance as to push the question of disarmament into the background. President Reagan also stated that if a real cut in armament comes, to end the danger of a nuclear war he was prepared to allow the Soviet Union and other countries to participate with

the United States in the "Star Wars" research plans. If President Reagan is serious in this offer, it is the duty of the Soviet Union to take notice. If both the parties know the technology used in the research, the danger is naturally decreased. However, the fact remains that no research should be done on arms bound to bring destruction to the world.

Recently there was a meeting of the defense ministers of the NATO member countries. The defense ministers fully defended the American stand on intercontinental and medium-range nuclear missiles. However, according to the BBC, the American stand on "Star Wars" was not fully appreciated; Europe wants peace and the European public is against anything which threatens it. The "Star Wars" plan indicates an expansion in the material and hardware used in war, therefore naturally the Europeans do not like it. Governments have to reflect the opinion of their public. However, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger stated that Britain was ready to join the "Star Wars" research plan. The probable reason for this is that President Reagan has invited Soviet Union and other countries to participate in the program. If they do participate, the danger involved is lessened.

Both parties are preparing themselves for the summit. Both the parties must also be discussing among themselves how much give and take would be justified. There are signs that both parties want a reduction in tension, although the question of rivalry may continue.

/12913

CSO: 4656/21

PAKISTAN

PESSIMISM EXPRESSED OVER SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 26 Sep 85 p 3

[Article by Nurul Hasan Hashmi: "Will This Miracle Ever Happen?"]

[Excerpt] After taking over Afghanistan the Soviet rulers had said this country was extremely underdeveloped. They declared that Afghanistan was being controlled by a handful of landlords, owners of large orchards and traders. They wanted to put the country's economy on sound foundations, introduce education in science and technology, teach culture and civilization to the barbarous natives and so forth. Over 100 years ago, Russian rulers had made the same conceited pitch. At that time, Saint Petersburg, the present Leningrad, was the capital of Russia. In November 1864, a circular was issued by some European countries claiming "...that the position of Russia in Central Asia is same as the position of any civilized country associating with wild tribes practicing a nomadic economy. What happens is that civilized countries need to curb the rebel tribes in their neighboring countries in order to protect their borders and attain their trade goals. Asian people only understand the language of coercion. This approach was used by the United States in South America, by France in Algeria, by Holland in Indonesia and by England in India. We hope that in a few years these wild tribes will get accustomed to a peaceful life. The natives are grateful for our efforts to civilize central Asian principalities.... We have to protect our empire and we believe that we are not only spreading civilization but helping humanity as well. We hope our efforts will be recognized some day."

Behold! The Communist Russia of today is practicing the same routine. The whole of Central Asia has become prey to its expansionist designs. The world has witnessed the response of the "uncivilized" tribes of Afghanistan to the aggression by the "civilized" Russian soldiers. Ten to twenty thousand Russian soldiers have lost their lives and billions of rubles have been spent in this effort. Thousands of Afghan youth are being trained in various Soviet universities. Afghan culture and Islamic religion in Afghanistan is all but obliterated. A coalition of Islamic nations and non-aligned nations has repeatedly requested the Soviet Union to withdraw its armed forces. In response, the Soviets have accelerated their military activities. About 500 Afghans are arriving in Pakistan daily to request political asylum. Against this background, it is impossible to believe that the USSR will ever leave

Afghanistan. Pakistan's president's statement that Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan would be considered the miracle of 20th century seems to be appropriate. The 40th session of the United Nations has already started. Once again this issue will be raised in the Security Council and once again a great majority of the members will demand Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. This will be the sixth resolution of this kind and, as usual, the Soviet Union will disregard it. Again in November when Reagan and Gorbachev meet in Geneva, the Afghanistan question will be on their agenda. The Afghanistan problem has become an issue of the "superpowers." If these two countries ever come to terms on this issue, great strides will be made toward achieving world peace. Three or four hundred thousand Afghan refugees will be able to return home. Let us see who holds the trump card. If President Reagan and President Gorbachev fail to reach an accord in their next meeting, we have little hope of solving this problem in the Sixth U.N. meeting in Geneva to be held in December. Let us pray that this "miracle" of the 20th century takes place soon.

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PAKISTAN

LEADER OF INDEPENDENT GROUPS TALKS ABOUT PARLIAMENT'S SOVEREIGNTY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Oct 85 p 1

[Article by Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 17: Haji Saifullah Khan leader of the Independent Group in the National Assembly, has termed the unanimous passage of the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Bill as a good beginning towards the restoration of 1973 Constitution.

Addressing a Press Conference here immediately after the President's address to the National Assembly, Haji Saifullah maintained that the Amendment Bill had kept intact the sovereignty of the Parliament. He said the President now could not dissolve the National Assembly in his discretion. Similarly the President and the provincial Governors would no longer had the power to appoint the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister unless they are first elected by the concerned assemblies to the office. This, he said, was in accordance with the basic spirit of the 1973 Constitution.

Haji Saifullah said that by retaining the powers of electing the Chief executives of the country and the provinces, the elected Assemblies would now be more sovereign.

The Amended Bill has also restricted the powers of the President in relation to the appointment of the provincial governors who could only be appointed in consultation with the Prime Minister.

Talking about the IPG's substantial gains, Haji Saifullah said, that despite all the hurdles in its way, the Group had refused to compromise on principles. One of the major achievements of the Group, he said, was to remove constitutional protection from the Political Parties Act which the Political Parties Act, [as published] he said would now be an ordinary law and thus it would contain no provision which could in any way violate the basic rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

Maintaining that it was only the start of IPG's struggle for the establishment of a truly democratic Islamic order in the country, he said the Group would continue its endeavour for the full restoration of the 1973 Constitution.

Haji Saifullah said the acceptance of the IPG's amendments had established beyond any doubt that the IPG's stance was just. The group, he said, had also belied the propaganda that the IPG was opposing the Bill only for the sake of opposition.

The IPG leader said that if the Bill as presented in the National Assembly on Sept. 8, had been adopted in its original shape, it would have changed the entire constitutional structure and make Martial Law a part of the constitution.

Senator Professor Khurshid later talking to newsmen endorsed Haji Saifullah's views and said whatever Haji Sahib did and said during the IPG's constitutional struggle had the full belssings of the entire Group. The amended Bill, Professor Khurshid said, was more in conformity with the spirit of the 1973 Constitution as it had curtailed the powers of the President. The President, he said, had been deprived of powers to dissolve the National Assembly at his discretion. He said the powers of the Federal Shariat court had also been enhanced.

In reply to a question Haji Saifullah said the IPG had insisted that the final date of the lifting of Martial Law should be mentioned in the Bill. The government on its part, he said, had pointed out certain legal complications, but it had given an assurance that the President would announce the date of the lifting of Martial Law. When asked as why the President did not make the announcement in today's address, he said the government side had assured them that this would be done during the current session.

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PAKISTAN

EXILED PAKHTOON LEADER OPPOSES CONFEDERATION IDEA

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Oct 85 p 1

[Article by Mushahid Hussain]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 17: In an exclusive interview with "The Muslim" in Kabul, former NAP General Secretary and eminent Pakhtoon intellectual, Ajmal Khattak, has expressed his opposition to the confederation idea, saying he remains wedded to the concept of Pakistan.

This interview took place on the morning of October 9 over breakfast at Ajmal Khattak's well-guarded residence in one of the posh localities of Afghan capital. Ajmal Khattak who was dressed in his traditional Khaddar 'Shalwar Qamiz' still sports his greying beard. The only noticeable decoration piece in his drawing room was his coloured photograph with Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Khan Abdul Wali Khan.

During the 80-minute conversation, Ajmal Khattak seemed quite nostalgic about his political past in Pakistan, well informed about the current developments and keen to understand the changing political situation in his homeland.

Excerpts from the interview:

On His Exile

"I yearn to return home when conditions are suitable in Pakistan. I would love to go back to my country, but I know if I go today, I will be immobilised and they will not let me move from one place to another or meet my political associates. I was forced to leave Pakistan after what Bhutto did to us. It was March 1973 and NAP had arranged a public meeting at Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi. I was in charge of organising the meeting. A night before the meeting, the Jamaat-e-Islami people and other UDF members came to us and informed us that Bhutto had plans to disrupt the public meeting. They told us that FSF had sent in armed guards to create disturbances. They further advised us to bring in a large number of our Pakhtoon Zalme so as to counter the brute force of FSF. We, however, rejected this advice, since we were only making a peaceful protest against the authoritarian and undemocratic policies of the Bhutto regime. Just before the meeting was to start, I was on the stage at Liaquat Bagh flanked by two of our party workers. Suddenly

shots rang from behind and my comrades fell to the ground. One of our workers told me to watch out and I just ducked in time before the person who warned me got shot and killed. Then the public ran in panic, although I regained my composure and told them to stay in the meeting. So you can see that it was disrupted before it even began. Under such situation, how could I remain in Pakistan? At that time, our elected government in Baluchistan had already been dismissed on the pretext of the Iraqi arms and our government in NWFP had resigned in protest. This peaceful rally was meeting only to condemn these undemocratic moves of the Bhutto regime".

On Politics and Confederation

"I still retain my contacts with my comrades in National Awami Party (NAP). Whenever Bacha Khan and Khan Abdul Wali Khan came to Kabul, we meet. I know that they have to work under great difficulties in Pakistan because under all those restrictions, opposition politicians are not allowed to meet with each other or even to travel from one Tehsil to another Tehsil.

"I am against this proposal of confederation mooted by our London-based politicians and also against the talk of determining provincial autonomy according to 1940 resolution. These are all slogans which mean nothing. The real thing is a need for trust among the people of provinces of Pakistan and as long as that is lacking, nothing will work. We had certain perceptions as a result of which we were on the other side during the Pakistan Movement. But that was before 1947. After that we have been supporting a united and democratic Pakistan and not opposed to the concept of one Pakistan. The real issue with the people of Pakistan is that they have never been really allowed to exercise their destiny independently on their own. We would hope differences among opposition political leaders of Pakistan will be overcome and unity between PNP and NDP restored. I have great respect for Sardar Sher Baz Mazari. He is a decent and honest man."

On Afghan Problem

"There is no real problem with Afghanistan. The people here want friendship with the people of Pakistan. Only two forces are against friendship between Pakistan and Afghan peoples: The bureaucratic elite in Pakistan which has no links and rapport with the people and the United States of America which wants to keep the pot boiling in Afghanistan. Only they are against the friendship between Pakistan and Afghanistan and they are, in fact, the main obstacles to a political settlement.

"The people here also would not like the Soviet forces to be indefinitely stationed in Afghanistan. They would like to build a new society based on human values, but because of insurgency based in Pakistan there are problems. The government here has recently organised a very successful tribal jirga in which a number of representatives from tribes living in Pakistan also came. For example, there was the son of Wali Khan Kukikhel, Attaullah Kukikhel who came with a 'lashkar' of 1200 men.

These tribal chiefs were very well received in Kabul and they, for the first time, saw and understood the reality of SAUR revolution. They were all praise for the government here.

"In the seventies, Sardar Daud wanted to resolve the Afghanistan problem. The only condition he laid was that Bhutto should release the NAP leadership then in jail in the so-called Hyderabad conspiracy case, but Bhutto was not sincere in releasing them and he sent a message to them in Hyderabad jail, which they found humiliating. Daud came to me and told me that Bhutto wanted to see me. I told Daud that although Bhutto and I were once good friends, I was not in a position to meet with Bhutto in the present circumstances. As long as my comrades were still in jail, how could I possibly go and meet with Bhutto.

It was even suggested that I talk to my jailed comrades in Hyderabad on telephone in Bhutto's presence and try to convince them to come to terms with him but I refused all that. At one point, I was sitting in Daud's palace in one room and he and Bhutto were having a meeting in another. I still refused to meet Bhutto".

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PAKISTAN

NASRULLAH DENOUNCES CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Oct 85 p 6

[Text] Multan, Oct. Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chief of the defunct PDP, has said the 1973 Constitution has been eliminated by making amendments and in its present shape, become an Order of 1985.

Addressing at a reception hosted by Khawaja Mohammad Shafiq, a leader of PDP, in honour of Sardar Sher Baz Khan Mazari, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan said, 'we do not recognise the existing Parliament as it was elected by holding polls on a non-party basis.

The Nawabzada said the present regime had exploited Islam to serve its designs. He said, now all political parties, even those which had supported Martial Law, had admitted that MRD's stand was just, right and timely.

MAZARI. Sardar Sher Baz Khan Mazari has ruled out any possibility of formation of a new party.

Talking to newsmen at the residence of Khawaja Mohammad Shafiq, he said that his party violated the manifesto and the Constitution, and he quitted it.
[as published]

He had a lengthy talk with Syed Mohammad Kaswar Gardezi at his residence. It is presumed that he would join Pakistan National Party sooner or later, as the two parties (PNP and NDP), had adopted same Constitution and programme.

GARDEZI. Syed Mohammad Kaswar Gardezi, Secretary General of PNP has said that the government had changed the sense and meaning of the words 'traitor' 'patriotic' and 'moderate'.

Addressing at a reception, he said that those capitalists and jagirdars were declared heroes of the Pakistan's Movement, who had always opposed the Movement to please their British well-wishers. They had joined the Pakistan Movement only two weeks before declaration of Pakistan at the behest of the British rulers, and they served only 20 to 22 days in jails.

He further said that landlords and capitalists of Punjab had been receiving appreciative letters from Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah for their great

services to the cause of Pakistan, while on the other hand, they were being praised by the governor of the British government for supporting their policy and cause.

He said that traitors meant 'anti-government' in the dictionary of the bureaucracy and its followers while those who supported the cause of the government, were termed patriots.

He said that 'mazdoor and kisan' were the real 'waris' (heirs) of the country.

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PAKISTAN

LAUNCHING OF KALABAGH DAM PROJECT PRAISED

Lahore. NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 26 Sep 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Kalabagh Dam--Beginning Work"]

[Text] Lieutenant General Chulam Safaddar Batt, chairman of WAPDA, [Water and Power Development Authority], announced in an interview that after 30 years of planning and study the Kalabagh Dam project is in the process of receiving bids for work on its numerous subprojects. Dr Mehbood Alhaq, federal minister for planning and finance, had hinted at this possibility earlier this month in a cabinet meeting. It was said that after consultation with provincial governments this important project would be presented to the federal cabinet for approval.

According to the WAPDA chairperson, Kalabagh Dam will cost about \$350 million (5.5 billion rupee). The country will benefit more than 1 hundred million rupees annually from electricity generated and irrigation of land when this project is completed. In the initial phase, this project will generate 2,400 megawatts of electricity, increasing to 3,600 megawatts later. There are unlimited benefits from this project. According to the chairman of WAPDA, a thermal electric plant of similar capacity would cost us about 40 billion rupees and consume coal and oil worth 10 billion rupees annually. The Kalabagh Dam is basically a hydroelectric project, but it will also provide water to irrigate 760,000 acres of land in the four provinces. He declared that the fear that Mardan district in Suba Sarhad (NWFP) will be flooded as the result of this project was totally unfounded. According to him the land in this district is between 37 and 75 feet higher than the surface of the proposed lake. He added that the three canals being dug to drain the marshy land in this district will be emptied into this lake.

The completion of Kalabagh Dam will help alleviate the problem of electricity in urban areas; however, there is still a need to build more hydroelectric projects on various rivers. The chairman of WAPDA mentioned Basha near Tirbela in this regard. It will, however, take 10 or more years to study the feasibility of another project. The fact that it took 30 years to plan it tells us how huge this project is. Of course, some areas in Punjab and the NWFD will be submerged as the result of the Kalabagh Dam. Adequate rehabilitation aid will be given to the affected people. The Mangala and Tribela dams would never have been constructed nor Chashma created for irrigating our four provinces if the uprooting of some people had become a big issue. In addition to spending 350 million rupees, we will have to wait 7 or 8 years for its completion. It is worth it when we consider the long-range benefits to our provinces.

PAKISTAN

QUESTION ON TARBELA DAM AFFECTEES RAISED IN ASSEMBLY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Oct 85 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 17: In today's question hour two issues were taken up by the members and quite a heat was generated in the exchange of arguments between the two sides. The first issue related to alternate land being allotted to the displaced persons of Tarbela and the second was about the oil production in Pakistan.

Dr. Mohammad Asad Khan, the Minister of State for Petroleum, was engaged by several members into a long debate through supplementaries and points of order.

Apart from the incomplete nature of the answers some of the members were critical of the manner in which the worthy Minister responded to questions. They alleged that he was using unparliamentary language about the questioners. A privilege motion was moved by Khial Shah over the 'derogatory' remarks used by the Minister--the latter describing the question of the member as breeding from ignorance.

Gen. (Retd) Bashir asked whether it was a fact that the oil production in Pakistan had risen to 40,000 barrels per day. Dr. Asad answered that domestic crude production was meeting about 25% of daily oil consumption, yielding gross foreign exchange saving of Rs.430 crore in 1984-85 which would rise to Rs.676 crore in 85-86. The second question asked by Gen. Bashir was to seek clarification about the likelihood of some oil fields going dry by the end of 1988 which in his opinion would bring down indigenous daily production substantially. He wanted to know the specific reasons for overplaying the production of oil at present. Dr. Asad said the production would not come down because in due course of time more oil fields would be discovered and the present level of oil production would be maintained. It was at this stage that Syeda Abida Hussain asked the Minister whether it was a fact that a multi-billionaire oil tycoon from the United States was exploiting the oil situation in Pakistan and was reaping huge profits.

The Minister conceded that the worthy member was referring to Occidental Oil Company which was owned by one Mr. Hammer, but he evaded answering the other part of Abida's question, which related to the appropriation of huge profits by the said foreigner. Syeda Abida alleged that the answer of the Minister

was not complete and that he was trying to shelter the said tycoon. Dr. Asad, who seemed to be angered over the remarks of the questioner, retorted that the way she "has started she will be very sorry later when she gets the answer". Interrupting the explanation of Dr. Asad, Syeda Abida rose on a point of order and accused the Minister of disregarding the decorum of the House by calling a member of the assembly by addressing her as 'she' whereas 'we are neither he nor she, but only members of the House'. Sheikh Rashid from Rawalpindi remarked that the Minister's attitude was queer and insulting and he did not give due regard to the members while answering questions. He said that perhaps he (the Minister) had a claim to know every thing on earth while all others were ignorant people. At this stage the Speaker gave his ruling that the decorum of the House must be maintained at all costs.

The question of allotment of land for the displaced persons of Tarbela seized the House for quite some time. The debate started with a question by Mr. Hamza who wanted to know the acreage of land allotted to the displaced persons of Tarbela Dam, Chashma Barrage and Mangla dam with a comment that why such a vast alternate land was allotted only from Punjab. The Minister for Water and Power, Zafarullah Khan Jamali by whipping the patriotic sentiments of the worthy member told him that it was a very magnanimous gesture on the part of Punjab to accept such a situation and this was the decision which was made in the best national interest.

Gohar Ayub Khan, who comes from Hazara constituency, said that of the 40,000 acres of land allotted to the affectees of Tarbela, 11,000 was allotted in Sind province but the people settled in Sind had all returned to their native district and wanted to be settled somewhere in Punjab. He wanted a categorical assurance from the Minister that these people would also be settled in Punjab, but the Minister refused to give such an assurance on the ground that it was not possible for the government to cater for the demands of the people and the land could be allotted only at those places where it was available.

APADDS: A final policy decision will be taken about Kalabagh Dam at a high level meeting to be attended by representatives of the Federal Government and provincial governments of Sind, Punjab and NWFP, Jamali, told the National Assembly today.

Answering several supplementaries the Minister said till a policy about Kala Bagh Dam was formulated, it would be in the national interest if this matter was not touched at this moment.

Answering a written question by Mr. Hamza, Mr. Jamali told the House that a total of 30,000 acres of land was allotted to Tarbela Dam displaced persons in Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Multan and Khanewal districts while they were given 11,051 acres in Sukkur, Shikarpur and Jacobabad districts of Sind.

The displaced persons of Chashma Barrage were allotted a total of 2,32,356 acres of land in Khushab and Mianwali districts of Punjab. The Minister further said that a total of 56,664 acres of land was allotted to Mangla Dam affectees in the districts of Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sargodha, Sheikhupura, Faisalabad, Multan, Vehari, Jhang, and Jauharabad.

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PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

PRC ELECTRICAL COMPLEX ACCORD--State Engineering Corporation and China's National Machinery Export and Import Corporation have signed an agreement in Karachi under which a heavy electrical complex will be set up in Pakistan to manufacture high-voltage power transformers. These transformers will use heavy voltage transformer lines to extend the power distribution system in Pakistan. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Nov 85 BK]

JAPANESE RAILROAD DIESEL ENGINES--An agreement was signed between Pakistan railroads and a Japanese firm in Islamabad today for supplying 50 railroad diesel engines. The Japanese firm will supply these engines within 18 months at a cost of 740 million rupees in foreign exchange. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Nov 85 BK]

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